Tuesday, August 7, 2012 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 37 / No. 240 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

STILL FASTEST MAN ALIVE Jamaica's Usain Bolt crosses the finish line ahead of (from right) United States' Justin Gatlin and Ryan Bailey and The Netherlands' Churandy Martina to win and defend the gold in the men's 100-meter final at Olympic Stadium in London on Sunday AP

House ends RH debate

Church aghast as bill nears approval

By Leila B. Salaverria and Michael Lim Ubac

WITH RESOUNDING "ayes," the contentious debates on the reproductive health (RH) bill came to an abrupt end yesterday in the House of Representatives, just hours after President Aquino summoned congressmen to the Palace and pleaded to bring the measure forward to its second stage.

This means the controversial population control measure would now go through a period of amendments, before it is put to a vote on second reading on the floor.

By the first time since 100 congressmen agreed to impeach then-Chief Justice Renato Corona in blitzkrieg fashion last December in a Japanese restaurant, lawmakers were to lunch in the Palace yesterday to attend to yet another priority administration project.

There, they heard Mr. Aquino make what one attendee de

HOUSE A6

JPE grills Noda chief on population, economics / A6

JAMAICAN LIGHTNING

Bolt blitzes 100 m in record 9.63 sec

LONDON—Four years later, still no one can catch Usain Bolt.

He is still No. 1, still the Olympic champion at 100 meters, still the fastest man alive, still history's greatest sprinter, still unmatched in his stirring ability to rise to the moment.

Having completed his work on Sunday night in 9.63 seconds, an Olympic record, the second-fastest time ever run, Bolt put on a celebratory show for the 80,000 people in the stadium and the millions more watching from afar.

His performance, after all, had happened just hours before Jamaica's 50th anniversary of independence from Britain, a combination of events that gave rise to celebrations from Brixton to Kingston.

"My boy!" bugled Barton Absalom as she watched Bolt run on television at Perfection

BOLT A10

ROVER HAS LANDED This artist's rendering provided by Nasa shows the Curiosity rover finally landing on Mars on Sunday after traveling 8 1/2 months and logging 5,633 million kilometers. AP/Nasa

Robotic explorer lands on Mars

PASADENA, California—In a show of technological wizardry, the robotic explorer Curiosity blazed through the pink skies of Mars, steering itself to a gentle landing inside a giant crater for the most ambitious dig yet into the red planet's past.

A chorus of cheers and applause echoed through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) Jet Propulsion Laboratory on Sunday night after the most high-tech interplanetary rover ever built signaled it had survived a harrowing plunge through the thin Mars atmosphere.

"Touchdown confirmed," said engineer Allen Chen. "We're safe on Mars."

Minutes after the landing

ROBOTIC A11

Talk of 'boxing mafia' rises following scandals

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

LONDON—Judging from the scandals that have rocked the boxing competitions at the London Olympic Games, the so-called Mafia in international boxing is apparently still around, and Kazakhstan is now among the "Lords of the Ring."

TALK A10

INSIDE

WORLD
Syrian premier defects to Jordan / A24

LIFESTYLE
There's science to successful relationships / C1

NATION
Moro breakaway rebels stage raids; 3 dead / A16

NEWS
'Bourne' producer graces movie's Manila premiere / A10

Floods hit Metro Manila; Pagasa sees more rains

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AFTER two weeks of heavy rains in large parts of the country, including Metro Manila, expect more of the same in the next few days or even until next week.

The chilly "rain, rain go away come again another day" may not work as a shallow low pressure area (LPA) off northern Luzon may enhance the southwest monsoon and bring more rain.

Heavy rain again pounded Metro Manila late Sunday. The weather bureau said the rol

FLOODS A11

IBP junks De Lima plea anew; it's now JBC's call

By Christine O. Avendaño

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima is now counting on the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) to keep her nomination as Chief Justice alive after the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) denied anew yesterday her appeal for the dismissal of the disbarment cases against her.

"Be that as it may, I have already stated in my letters to the JBC that I leave (my fate) to the council," De Lima said yesterday after learning that the IBP had thrown out her appeal.

IBP JUNKS A4

A think tank like no other for young PH scholars

By Tarra Quismundo

THEY could well be the Rizals and Malolos of their generation—young Filipino scholars from diverse disciplines who are lending their expertise to raise the standard of academic research and policy studies.

And yes, they get to do this while keeping their day jobs.

The young lawyers, economists and experts from other fields educated in the world's leading universities have come together to establish the Angara Centre for Law and Economics, a venue for knowledge-sharing that they believe

A THINK A13

The Bourne Legacy Premieres at Resorts World Manila

The Philippines' foremost one-stop, nonstop destination for world-class entertainment, Resorts World Manila, hosted the premiere of the highly-anticipated film The Bourne Legacy, starring Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz, and Edward Norton, last August 5, at the Newport Performing Arts Theater (NPAT).

The red-carpet event was graced by members of the press and VIPs, including the film's producer, Pat Crowley.

Featuring key scenes shot in the Philippines, The Bourne Legacy will also have its regular screening starting August 8 at Resorts World Manila's Newport Cinemas.

For more information on other Resorts World Manila shows and events, please visit www.rwmanila.com or call the Tourist/Visitor Hotline at (632)836-6333.

Resorts World Manila Executive Vice President Steve Reilly (right) welcomes The Bourne Legacy producer Pat Crowley to the film's red carpet premiere.

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Rain	Iloilo/Roxas	Rain
Baguio	Rain	Davao	Rain
Tuguegarao	Rain	Cebu	Rain
Laoag	Rain	Tacloban	Rain
Legazpi	Rain	Ozamiz	Rain
Puerto Princesa	Rain	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rain	Cotabato	Partly Cloudy
Coron	Rain	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Kalibo	Rain	Dumaguete	Partly Cloudy

Weather forecast provided by Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa)

8/7 — 1st: 15 20 | 2nd: 11 13 | 3rd: 15 29

SUERTRES — 1st: 9 7 5 | 2nd: 0 4 1 | 3rd: 1 9 9

4-DIGIT — 7 0 5 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45 — 2 5 21 27 34 42 — P15,118,144.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO — 7 10 16 19 22 33 — P80,836,002.00

LOTTO, 3D/4D LOTTO, result on 8/8/12. PCSO photo

Cops urge two hazing victims to file charges

By Marisse Cano
Inquirer Southern Luzon
and Marlon Ramos

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police said the efforts of two hazing victims, who voluntarily went to the Cavite police office on Friday, were not enough unless they formally testified and pressed charges against the fraternity members allegedly responsible for the death of Jun Bedia last year during Mari Andre Marcos.

"We are considering their fear of antagonizing [the fraternity members] or of being ostracized, but we will still interview them by talking to their relatives," Chief Supt. James Mebal, Calabarzon police director, said yesterday.

Mebal was referring to Ryan Christopher Hilomen and Ephraim Daniel "Ed" Lim, the two new members of the Lex Leonum fraternity who underwent the same initiation rites as victim Marcos Marcos, a freshman law student at San Beda College in Alabang, Muntinlupa City sufferedfatal injuries that led to his death.

According to the guardian of Marcos, who refused to be identified, the two victims came forward "out of respect" for the police, whom they the guardian earlier sought to find Marcos's killers. Their interviews to press charges.

Marcos's parents are out of the country while Lucio's uncle, former Cagayan Gov. Edgar Lara, has been contacted by police.

Marcos and Lara had initially identified suspect Jhon Ben Bautista Velut as their "handler" during the initiation. Velut's family owns the 19-hectare farm in Silang, Cavite, where the hazing allegedly took place.

Asked if there would be any legal implications should the men refuse to testify, Mebal said that under the hazing law, if one knows what happened and did not do something about it, "there is still complicity."

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Shut up! China tells US in growing sea dispute

BEIJING—"Shut up!"

This was China's retort to the United States after the US Department of State issued a statement last Friday expressing concern over increased tensions in the South China (West Philippine) Sea and criticizing Beijing for unsubtlety, a new city and military garrison on an island in the contested waters.

China's state-controlled media lashed out at the United States on Monday, accusing Washington of "invisible mud-ling" over mistrust of Beijing's claims to a wide swath of the disputed seas.

The Chinese foreign ministry summoned Saturday by summoning a senior US embassy diplomat, who was told that Beijing's more "respect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The China Daily newspaper leapt up the heat blasting, saying in an editorial that the US statement "has done really evoked rueful rueful" and describing it as "outright trouble-making."

It said the US criticism of Sansha, the new city China established last month in the Paracel Islands to look its claims, "displays stunning disregard for the principle of non-interference in another country's internal affairs."

A commentary in the overseas edition of the People's Daily, the mouthpiece of the Communist Party, used more colorful language, bluntly telling the United States to "shut up" on the issue.

"The statement by the US side confuses right and wrong, wrongly misleads public opinion, sends the wrong signal And and should be sternly refused," it said. "We can completely shout in the US: Shut up."

The Department of Foreign Affairs, however, was stated by the US state department's statement expressing concern over China's establishment of a military garrison in the West Philippine Sea.

"We welcome the Aug. 3 statement of the US state department because it supports the Philippines' styles-based approach to resolving the dispute in the West Philippine Sea," DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said in a text message.

On Chinese media's "shut up" statement, Hernandez said: "The chosen response and couldn't by along with the decision to withdraw of navigation and unimpeded commerce will negatively impact not only on claimants but many other nations."

China, citing reminders of contact, says it owns much of the South China Sea, including the disputed Paracel and Spratly islands and other islets claimed in whole or in part by the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Taiwan.

The dispute has become more pronounced in recent months.

Friday's statement, issued by state department spokesperson Patrick Ventrell, said the US was "concerned by the increase in tensions resulting from China's latest" and was "monitoring the situation closely."

The new garrison and city run "counter to collaborative diplomatic efforts to resolve differences and risk further escalating tensions in the region," the statement said.

The Philippine government continues to press for a multilateral solution to territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea. In contrast, China wants to resolve the dispute with fellow claimants one on one. *Reports from AFP and Christine O. Avendaño*

AGAINST AIDS Comedian Miss Pipay, a.k.a. Jessie Changa, joins members of the Purple Ribbon Campaign against AIDS in a rally in front of the House of Representatives on Monday in urge passage of the controversial reproductive health bill. (Story on Page A7.)
RACKY ARCHIVE/INQUIRER

GMA defies docs, attends NBN pretrial

By Cynthia D. Balana

AGAINST the advice of her doctors, former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo yesterday showed up at the Sandiganbayan for the pretrial of the graft charges filed against her in connection with the allegedly anomalous national broadband network (NBN) transaction during her presidency.

Wearing a red suit and a neck brace, the now Pampanga representative arrived in a wheelchair with an intravenous tube attached to her arm. She was accompanied by husband and lawyer-son, Jose Miguel Arroyo, lawyers Jose Flaminiano, Jose Alberto Flaminiano and Lauravien Bistoa Arroyo, and a number of nurses.

The Sandiganbayan's Fourth Division had required Arroyo to be present at the pretrial of the graft charges filed against her by the Office of the Ombudsman in connection with the $329.48-million broadband transaction with the Chinese telecommunications firm ZTE Corp.

Presiding Associate Justice Gregory Ong of the Fourth Division: "Mrs. Arroyo is allowed not to submit a personal brief but if she (does) not attend the pretrial conference, all her desired witnesses and evidence will not be taken cognizance of."

Ong said the Supreme Court had ruled that a pretrial conference was mandatory in criminal proceedings and that the Sandiganbayan was only implementing the rules to "protect the rights of the accused."

Also charged with the Arroyo couple were former Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos and former Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

All the accused had pleaded not guilty to the graft charges. The former president is also facing a third suit in the same court for violation of the Code of Ethical Standards for Public Officials.

Arroyo was in tears as soon as she stood throughout the hearing before the court finally allowed her to be excused for her physical therapy at Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

Ellen Tordesillas, Arroyo's spokesperson, said the congresswoman was "on on pass" against the advice of her doctors at the VMMC.

At the conference, defense counsel Lauravien Arroyo said his client will be one of 29 witnesses they will be presenting, along with 48 documents as evidence.

"We will present her as a witness only to rehabilitate pero labo hindi na rin kami aregular door [but maybe we won't even reach that point]," said defense counsel Flaminiano said.

Special Prosecutor Marlon Barros said the prosecution, for its part, will be presenting 46 witnesses and 67 documents as evidence.

With a report from Jaime M. Laurello

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NAMRIA launches PageNET one-year free access

In line with its 35th Foundation anniversary, the Philippines' central mapping agency, the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) launched the Philippine Active Geodetic Network (PageNET)'s one-year free access during the User Forum on PageNET held at the NAMRIA Lecture Hall in Taguig City on 04 July 2012.

PageNET is the country's new geodetic positioning infrastructure which was established by NAMRIA as a sub-component of one of the significant projects of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Philippine Reference System of 1992 or PRS92 Project. The national geodetic network known as PRS92 is the standard reference for all mapping and surveying activities in the Philippines and the DENR, through NAMRIA, is involved in geodetic network development which aims to develop and maintain the system.

NAMRIA through its PageNET and under the leadership of Administrator Usec. Peter N. Tangco intends to strengthen the national geodetic network, modernize surveying and mapping activities in the country, augment scientific studies, and improve linkages among NAMRIA stakeholders both in the country and abroad.

To date NAMRIA continues to densify the PageNET with the addition of active geodetic stations or AGS. A total of 14 AGS have so far been established out of the targeted 36 stations. The permanently-installed and continuously operating geodetic stations nationwide use signals from the Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) to transmit real-time high precision geographic information which is accessible via the internet 24/7. The forum was attended by surveyors interested in registering and subscribing to PageNET and featured a discussion from NAMRIA on the network for surveying and mapping, user presentations from Carlson Infosystems Corporation, Geodata Systems Technologies Inc., and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, and a demonstration of the connection of different GNSS receivers in PageNET.

Palawan gov said hiding in Vietnam

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Former Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes managed to slip out of the country on March 18 via Cebu Pacific flight 5J751 bound for Vietnam, according to highly placed government sources.

Reyes and his brother Mario, mayor of Coron, have been in hiding since warrants of arrest were issued against them on March 27 for the murder of Palawan journalist and environmentalist Gerry Ortega.

The information given to media was that Reyes was able to slip through immigration using a fake passport bearing the name Joseph Lim Bo but carrying his real photograph. The passport was supposedly issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs on Feb. 3, 2012.

The Ortega family has declined to issue a statement on the report.

"We will have to first consult our lawyers because this may have some bearing on the ongoing case," Michaella Ortega, the victim's daughter, told the Inquirer.

Reyes was indicted by the Department of Justice in February this year based on evidence that he had ordered the hit on Ortega, a staunch anti-graft critic of his administration.

Reyes and his brother, claiming innocence, went into hiding as their lawyers tried to appeal their case in the Court of Appeals.

Rodrigo Jr. Arala, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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Manila-Mindanao	0	0.00	0	200	40	944
Luzon-Manila	0	0.00	0	0	40	867
Visayas-Manila	0	0.00	0	0	40	849
Mindanao-Manila	0	0.00	0	0	40	1,121

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• See website for more details.
For more information, call PAL reservations at 855-8888 or your travel agent, or log on to www.philippineairlines.com
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Corrections

IN THE AUG. 1 ISSUE, a front page story—"Startup loses, PH boxing officials file protest"—erroneously reported that the referee penalized Mark Jheriqui of the Philippines for headbutting military in the decisive third round of his boxeday match with Ibrahim Zhakypov of Kazakhstan in the London Olympics. Jheriqui was penalized for shaking opponent. It was this penalty that led to Jheriqui's defeat.

The same story erroneously reported that Jheriqui took the first round with a score of 3–1. It was the Filipino boxer's opponent, Zhakypov, who won the round, 3–1.

* * *

IN THE AUG. 4 ISSUE, a front page story—"Senators 'reinventing' selves for 2013 polls"—gave the wrong impression that Senators Jinggoy Estrada and Lito Lapid are running in next year's midterm elections. Estrada and Lapid were reelected in the 2010 elections. Their terms end in 2016.

* * *

Reader's help sought after muggers rip carrier-bag of dental nurse at reception in Zone Park, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 2nd building, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101. 897-0100 loc. e-mail address: dentist@inquirer.com.ph

House urged: Probe costly classrooms

By Bill C. Cabanungan and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

TWO PARTYLIST lawmakers have called for a congressional probe of the Department of Education's classroom building project under the Public Private Partnership school infrastructure program amid allegations outlined that the classrooms were overpriced.

ACT Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio and Kabataan Rep. Raymond Palatino called for the probe after Albay Gov. Joey Salceda complained about the average cost of P1.7 million for each classroom constructed under the DepEd's PPP program, more than twice the P600,000-average cost pegged by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), at this price, the 9,300 classrooms are expected to cost the hapless P15.5 billion.

"The PPP school building program should be suspended pending further investigation," Tinio said in a news statement.

Ko for part, Palatino said the construction of the classrooms should go on but their cost must be readjusted.

"[The] probe should be immediate so that execution of program may resolve done," he said. "If we need to change contractors, builders, rules, it should take place now. We can't allow this to hamper the education of students," the youth party-list representative said.

Entire package

Bac Education Secretary Armin Luistro said the classrooms to be built under the PPP scheme were requested in cost more because the price included the entire package.

The 9,300 classrooms will be funded in two tranches from private investors that come with armchairs, ceiling fans, toilets and disabled-friendly features, he said, adding that a "comparison of prices must be based on similarity of features."

"The cost of money should also be [considered] with terms of up to ten years," Luistro said.

The PPP works like a build-operate-transfer scheme. Under the contract, the DepEd will repay the contractor annually for 10 years.

"The DepEd earlier announced that it was close to awarding the P15.5-billion contract under its PPP School Infrastructure Project (PSIP) aimed at ramping out by next year the shortage of some 66,000 classrooms in the public schools.

Two of the six bidders, namely, BF Corp., Alveo Land Development Corp., Consortium and Citicore Holdings Investment Inc./Megaworld Consortium Corp. Inc., submitted their technical and financial bids on July 18.

Financial bids

"We have not yet opened the bids of the two firms," Luistro said in a text message Sunday.

Tinio said lawmakers had been complaining to the DepEd since last year about its pricey estimates for classrooms.

"During last year's budget hearings, we warned that making use of a PPP scheme to construct classrooms would cost the taxpayers more," he said. "But we're outraged that a PPP classroom is double the price of the standard DPWH classroom due to the unconscionably high rate of return guaranteed to the private sector," Tinio said.

Instead, Franklin Drilon, who had allegedly a big chunk of his path barred to the construction of classrooms, claimed that his partners from the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce had been building classrooms for P525,000 each.

Salceda said that under the same scheme of building and leasing the same to the government, Albay had built 176 classrooms at an average price of P500,000 each.

The DepEd and DPWH's average cost for constructing a standard 63-square meter (seven by nine meter) classroom is P650,000.

The 9,300 classrooms will be built in 2,284 public schools in the Bicol region (Region 5), Central Luzon (Region III) and Calabarzon (Region IV-A).

The DepEd hopes to bid out later this year another PPP contract to build 10,000 classrooms in the Visayas and Mindanao.

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80% of public schools have building defects

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PERHAPS it rains, it really pours. That is, as far as the public schools are concerned.

Add to the country's severe lack of classrooms the mass of structural defects found in 80 percent of public school buildings inspected by the Department of Education (DepEd) and Department of Public Works and Highways last year.

The nationwide inspection found that eight of 10 of some 1,200 public schools surveyed have structural defects that include cracks on walls, roofs and floors due to the building's age.

The buildings are still being used after repairs have been done, according to Liza Perlesia Jr., assistant chief of the DepEd's Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division.

"The DepEd will not allow a structure to be used if it's not safe," Perlesia said in a forum arranged by the University of the Philippines Diliman's College of Engineering.

On its own initiative, the DepEd and the DPWH inspected 1,234 of the total 49,975 public school buildings in the country. Government engineers conducted a similar inspection of 2,292 school buildings and found structural defects in about 60 percent, or 1,412 of them.

Perlesia said the buildings were constructed in the 1960s and 1970s, with their defects attributed to age and non-use over the years.

To date, the DepEd official said, about a third or 149,527 of the total 462,328 classrooms in all public schools in the country require "major repairs." Almost 28 percent or 95,844 classrooms require "minor repairs," he added.

Professor Bonito Balderas, UP Diliman vice chancellor for research and development, said all school buildings have to be assessed "even if they're not showing any cracks" when they could be vulnerable to strong earthquakes.

A memorandum of agreement is in the works between the DepEd and the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers to train DepEd engineers to evaluate schools for earthquake resistance.

According to Perlesia, school repairs are funded by the DepEd's basic educational facilities fund (BEFF) and the quick response fund (QRF), which are apart from the department's regular school building program.

Of the DepEd's 600,000 personnel, only seven are engineers and there are architects in the central office, with 17 regional facilities supervisors and 205 division facilities supervisors.

To compensate for this lack, the department hires 180 engineers and architects on a per-project basis to supervise the year-round construction of classrooms and major repairs. But most of them still end up supervising an average of 16 simultaneous projects because of their limited number.

There was no DepEd data on the number of school buildings inspected in the last five years.

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"NO" TO THE RH BILL!

THE EVIL CONSEQUENCES OF RH BILL 4244

1. It will promote greater sexual promiscuity and immorality because all kinds of contraceptives, condoms and the like will be readily available to all for free.
2. It will not give an 100% reliable and dependable cure or answer to the growing population of this country as in the case of Mexico, India, Africa and China and other countries of the world operating under this kind of law. Rather, it will increase more pregnancy with the increase of sexual promiscuity among young people;
3. It cannot and will not help alleviate poverty nor spur economic growth. The United States of America for example, has been implementing Reproductive & Rights Laws for over half a century but still their economy has been very poor in the last two decades. Greed, poor economy, graft and corruption, and moral degradation will always lead any country to grave poverty, increased crimes and uncertain future;
4. It will open the Pandora's box of every evil till like the Gay Rights Bill, Same-Sex Marriage Bill, Abortion and Divorce Bills. Any we still a nation under God who implores the aid of the Almighty God with brave godless laws such as these?
5. Crimes will grow manifested and uncontrolled because we have given to freethinkers and lust. Juvenile delinquency will increase because the Bible says we have become "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:4);
6. If ever this bill becomes a law and enforced effectively, after 20 years or so, there will be a great reduction in the population of our younger generation. There will be more older people than younger ones. Let us learn from Singapore which has to take in young immigrants just to replace the older population. Human resource is a gift of God and if used and utilized properly, it will prosper our nation. Take the OFW's as an example, almost 7M of them all around the world are yearly contributing a lot to our country's coffers to help pump up our national economy; and
7. Whether we believe in God's sovereignty or not, this nation will invite the wrath of God because of the promotion of anti-God, anti-Life and anti-Family bills such as this one. We want His blessings and not His judgment. Every nation that departed from the moral principles of God's Word has experienced the judgment of God. God's curses or religious bigots if you may, but this is an awesome truth of which every Filipino especially those in power should take into account.

OUR HUMBLE PLEA TO OUR HONORABLE LEGISLATORS

The Consolidated RH Bill is the greatest deception upon the Filipino. The Bill is a: 1.) State intervention into people's private marital lives and affairs, as it strongly promotes the use of contraceptives; 2.) blatant disregard in the basic parental rights and influence of parents over their children, as it guarantees minor children the right to sex; 3.) suppression of the freedom of expression, as it makes mandatory sexuality education which includes sex and access to and use of contraceptives starting Grade 5; 4.) disguised State sanction to abortion, as it promotes the use of contraceptives which cause abortion; 5.) violation of and encroachment on the Church' primary and supreme domain over moral and spiritual principles, standards, and discipline by imposing criminal sanctions or violations thereof; and 6.) violation of the Freedom of Religion and the principle on the Separation of the Church and State, as it makes mandatory sexuality education promotes the use of contraceptives and imposes criminal sanctions for violation thereof.

The real problem is not population explosion BUT graft and corruption, defective resources allocations, and unequal distribution of wealth. The use of Contraceptives Mandatory Sexuality Education Starting Grade 5; and 2-children policy CANNOT solve the country's Graft and Corruption; Unemployment; Education; and Poverty problems. Instead of spending Billions of Pesos for the full implementation of this Bill when it becomes a law, we submit that such amount should instead be spent for Food Production, Education, Employment, Poverty Alleviation, Housing Projects for informal settlers, and fighting Graft and Corruption.

The real solution to the problem is not in man's hands but in God's who unerringly said: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14, KJV).

We therefore APPEAL for your HONORS to CAST A "NO" VOTE to HB 4244.

Issued in the City of Manila this 7th day of August 2012.

BAYAN KO MAHAL KO

DR. BENNY MIRANDO ABANTE, JR.
National President and Bishop
Most Outstanding Congressman
12th and 14th Congress, 6th District of Manila

BIBLEMODE International Address: PO Box 182, Makati City, Phils. Tel. No. (02) 361-1111. Follow us on twitter.com/BennyMAbante and like us on facebook.com/bishopabante

Skal cites business leaders

THREE captains of industry, the head of a leading conglomerate and a high performing government official lead this year's recipients of the Tourism Personality Awards to be handed out by Skal International Makati on Sept. 5 at the New World Hotel.

James Ibuntiza, awards committee chair, said the three recipients of this New Captains of the Tourism Industry Personality of the Year Awards are Manuel V. Pangilinan, chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.; Andrew L. Tan, CEO and president of Megaworld Corp.; and Henry Sy Jr., vice chair and CEO of SM Development Corp.

Ramon Ang, president and COO of San Miguel Corp., is the Skilled Personality of the Year.

Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez will receive the Government Personality of the Year Award for the Department of Tourism campaign, "It's more fun in the Philippines."

The other awardees are Philippine Star columnist and CEO Miguel G. Belmonte, Media Personality of the Year; Iloilo Governor Niel Tupas, Local Government Personality of the Year; New World Hotel general manager Hotel Achievement Personality of the Year; National Association of Independent Travel Agencies Cebu chapter president Jennifer Franco, Travel and Tour Operator Personality of the Year; and Boracay Regency chair and president Henry Chanlaw, Hotel Personality of the Year.

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JPE grills Neda chief on population, economics

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

DIRECTOR General Arsenio Balisacan of the National Economic Development Authority didn't know what hit him.

He could only bow and bow when questioned by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile on the relationship between population and economic growth.

On the last seat facing the Senate on the Aquino administration's proposed annual budget of ₱1.806 trillion for 2013, Balisacan was making some brave or neighboring economies took off because their "dependent" population of young citizens shrank while their labor forces grew rapidly—Enrile intervened.

"Are you suggesting (sic) urban population control in the country?" asked Enrile, who attended a rally sponsored by the Catholic Church on Saturday in a show of clout—sometimes interpreted by reporters and observers as against a perceived administration move to ram through the controversial reproductive health (RH) bill in the House of Representatives.

"Eh, I don't think, sir, that we need to really override the same level of access to the poor in terms of..." Balisacan fumbled off.

"All right, I'll resume the question," Enrile interposed. "What is your opinion as an economist and in charge of national economic development, what should be the ideal level of population growth for the country?"

"I, I, I, sir, I think that we can move naturally in the same way..." Balisacan stammered.

"You're the economist, you must have an idea," Enrile said.

Balisacan noted that the United Nations had set a 2.1-percent fertility rate for countries.

Enrile asked how the Philippines fared.

Balisacan said the country had a population growth rate of "roughly 2 percent, actually 1.90 percent."

"In other words we are below the UN acceptable rate," Enrile reminded.

Sen. Ralph Recto interposed, saying, "more or less we are in a sustainable growth rate."

Enrile's recipe for growth

Enrile then turned to other economic managers present in the hearing—Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

He asked them to provide the Senate figures on growth rates of government investments, private sectoral investments and foreign investments in the Philippines.

"For me, these are the most important ingredients of growth in any country. It's not population. I'm sorry but that's my position," Enrile said. "China, Vietnam, Japan, all the prosperous countries did not grow by themselves. They grew because of massive investments."

Economists say China upon the death of Mao Zedong embraced socialist policies and embarked capitalist steps, particularly in agriculture and manufacturing, thereby transforming the world's most populous nation into the second biggest global economic powerhouse.

Another factor in China's development was massive foreign investments in part of its inclusive economic thrust, ensuring everyone is a beneficiary of development, as opposed to an extractive economy run by the elites, stunting profit largely goes to the ruling class.

The World Bank says foreign direct investments in the Philippines amounted to $1.6 billion in 2011, compared to Indonesia's $18.28 billion, Malaysia's $9.06 billion and Vietnam's $8.37 billion in foreign direct investments last year.

The quantum of Enrile, who is pushing for amendments in the Constitution's economic provisions to encourage foreign investments in the country, were a reaction to a warning by the country representative of the UN Population Fund that the nation's economic development was being threatened by inaction on the RH bill.

Head-scratching Drilon

Sen. Franklin Drilon, chair of the Senate Finance committee, later told reporters of Balisacan's performance, "Like a typical economist, the answer was so granulized and with so many assumptions that honestly I could not figure out where exactly he stands in relation to population and the economy."

Balisacan sounded more as circular during an ambush interview by reporters after Enrile left. Speaking in a Bisaya voice, the Iloilo born said "rapid" population growth accommodated the country's ability to move to a higher long-term growth path.

He said the Aquino administration's game plan was to "break away from the high dependence on high consumption of energy gas hydrocarbons and of course gas population."

"We would want to see growth in population coming from the labor force. In other words, there should be a demographic transition," Balisacan said.

He said this was being undertaken by the Philippines' more successful neighbors like South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Adopting the same strategy would allow the poor in the country to see their limited resources for "better education, health and nutrition for their children."

He said this would make the poor "highly productive adults when they join the labor force."

Asked whether his statements meant support for the RH bill, Balisacan replied, "The intent of the bill is really to provide opportunities for poor people to manage their own family size, to provide their children's education opportunities through health and education investments."

House ends RH debate; Church aghast as bill nears OK

From page A1

scribed as a "diplomatic appeal"—no, the President did not issue marching orders according to the suspense men—to 261 lawmakers present during the two-and-a-half hour meeting to end the trenchfighting in the House that had bogged down progress in discussions of the bill.

Back in the House later, the majority of the 223 members present—including former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Binangonan Rep. Marino Morales who both opposed the reproductive bill—pulled "aye" when asked for a viva voce, or voting orally.

The vote came 24 hours ahead of schedule, short-circuiting attempts by the Catholic Church hierarchy to muster yet another protest action just two months originally set for durian today. Church leaders have threatened to campaign in next year's election against lawmakers backing the RH bill.

PRO-RH BILL supporters brave the rain as they hold a tally in front of the House of Representatives on Monday in support of the reproductive health bill. EDWARD DUNCIL

'God have mercy on him'

Minister Rep. Toby Tiangco moved for nominal voting in an apparent bid to identify those **heaving the bill, but withdrew** his motion after it was largely ignored as the evening session perked up.

"God have mercy on him and on us," said Fr. Melvin Castro, executive director of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, of the President's surprise just two days after the Church led an 8,000 rally at the Rizal Shrine at Antipolo by a crowd of about 10,000. He warned that the Church would not take the move lightly, saying "2013 is not (over) the corner."

In the upper chamber, how-

From page A1

ever, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who attended Saturday's rally, announced he had questions about the bill, calling for the suspension of interpellation, Enrile is against the bill. (See story on this page.)

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto, who is also against the measure, said the House action "does not affect the Senate, as far as I'm concerned."

Proponents of the bill in the Senate have complained that the leadership was sitting on the measure, threatening to delay administration plans to enact the bill into law this year to afford the poor access to universal health care and family planning methods.

One opponent of the bill, Antipolo Rep. Florencio Noel, said the period of reconsideration—the next stage in the lawmaking process—would be equally contentious. This is where congressmen may be made and battles on corrections would take place.

Opponents of the bill immediately opposed the formal motion to end the debates when Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II introduced it on the floor.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez complained that the original agreement was that the vote would be held today, adding he still had many questions to ask.

Manila Rep. Manuel Lopez objected that the No. 6 in the queue yesterday—Isug, to vote solidarity because it was associated with the devil. Batangas Rep. Hermilando Mandanas and Zambales Rep. Milagros Magsaysay walked against the move as well.

Despite this, the vote to terminate the debates pushed through. By 6:07 p.m., it was all over.

Conscience vote

The decision to terminate the debates was made during a meeting with the President, who assured the lawmakers

Solon comes to Mt. Apo park's rescue

A PARTYLIST representative has asked the Supreme Court to issue a writ of kalikasan to stop the degradation of Mount Apo National Park, which he said had been plagued by deforestation and pollution, endangering its protected area status.

Agham party-list Rep. Angelo Palmones also asked the high court to issue a writ of continuing mandamus and a temporary environmental protection order to ensure the preservation and protection of the park, considered as critical watershed for major river systems in south central Mindanao and identified as one of the 126 key biodiversity areas in the country.

In an 18-page petition, Palmones provided the court with "photographic evidence" of the enormous degradation of the more than 54,000-hectare park, which covers four municipalities and three cities in Davao del Sur and Cotabato provinces Davao City, Digos City and Kidapawan City.

THE RH BILL

(Attention Senators and Members of the House of Representatives)

This divisive bill makes a mockery of Filipino values and culture for its anti-life provisions. It perpetuates policies that are anti-Filipino, anti-family and anti-life.

- *They claim that the RH bill does not seek to legalize abortion.* **ON THE CONTRARY, IT ALLOWS FOR BACKROOM LEGALIZATION OF ABORTION THAT IS STATE-SPONSORED.** (S.B. No. 2865 Section 3 i. and H.B. No. 4244 Section 3 i.)

- *They claim that the RH bill is pro-family, pro-women, pro-health.* **IN REALITY, THE BILL IS A FOREIGN DICTATED POLICY WITH UNITED NATION OFFICIALS CALLING ON GOVERNMENTS TO PASS LAWS THAT SKIRT "RESTRICTIVE" ABORTION LAWS.**

- *They claim that the RH bill is pro-poor.* **IN TRUTH, SOME P3 BILLION IN PUBLIC FUNDS WILL BE WASTED IN PROCURING SO-CALLED ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIKE CONDOMS, PILLS, IUDS—MONEY WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN USED TO ADDRESS CLASSROOM SHORTAGE, PROMOTE AGRICULTURE, SOCIAL HOUSING ETC.**

- *They claim that the bill institutionalizes maternal and child health care services.* **ON THE CONTRARY, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS ARE ALREADY CONTAINED IN THE MAGNA CARTA FOR WOMEN AND OTHER RELATED LAWS. THE PROBLEM IS IMPLEMENTATION , NOT NEW LEGISLATION.**

- *They claim that the RH bill will solve poverty.* **IN TRUTH, THE SOLUTION TO POVERTY IS NOT POPULATION CONTROL BUT CONTROLLING GREED AND CORRUPTION, AND PRACTICING GOOD GOVERNANCE.**

DEFEND AND SAVE THE FILIPINO FAMILY!
HUWAG NATING HAYAANG DIKTAHAN TAYO NG MGA DAYUHAN!

REJECT THE RH BILL!

Filipinos FOR LIFE

Caucus aimed at killing FOI bill, backers charge

By Leila B. Salaverria

THERE IS enough support to put the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill to a vote at the committee level even without having to hold a caucus of House leaders to discuss its contentious points, backers of the measure said end of Congress said yesterday.

The suggestion made the assertion as they accused Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, public information committee chair, of delaying the vote in order to kill the bill a second time in the current 15th Congress.

The FOI bill came close to being passed in the 14th Congress, only to be thwarted by a clash of agendas.

The bill is now pending at the committee level and since it passes, it would be submitted to the plenary for debate and possible passage on second and third readings.

At least 137 lawmakers have publicly come out for the measure and joined a signature campaign calling for its passage.

Malaysia party-list Rep. Winston Ilello pointed out that five of the six deputy speakers as well as 19 committee members were the signatories.

Ilello noted it was Speaker Feliciano Belmonte himself, during the latest State session opening, who said it was time the bill was put to a vote, along with another controversial measure, the reproductive health (RH) bill.

Malacañang had submitted its version of the bill to Congress, and some of its recommendations were included in the final measure.

Evardone should stop ignoring the bill and order action on it, the "blatant red maneuver" to have the lawmakers tackle it in plenary, Ilello said.

"Basically, we feel there is a huge maneuver. Once the 14th to the 15th Congress to get this out. There is no viable excuse not to call a committee meeting," said Ilello in a press briefing.

Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada said he did not see the need for a caucus on a matter that was already pending in committee, especially since the committee was ready to vote on the measure.

The bill was initially set to be tackled on Aug. 7, but **that was cancelled with** Evardone saying House leaders would have to discuss it in caucus to iron out its controversial points in order to prevent heated debates and expedite the process, when the bill is finally taken up.

Tuesday as yesterday denied he was trying to kill the measure, saying the claim was "baseless and misplaced."

Meanwhile, Nepomuceno Malaluan of the Right to Know, Right Now coalition urged House leaders not to let that date allow the bill to languish until it expires at the end of the 15th Congress.

Solons to quiz De Lima on policy

By Cecily Tumbocon

TWO SENATE committees will ask Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to explain why she issued a new order that allows the release of drug suspects while their cases are under review.

"The presiding role is that suspects shall remain in police custody but in a new department circular, this has been revised so that suspects may now be released pending a review of their cases by the justice secretary," Senator Miguel Zubiri (Bukidnon, Independent) said in a privilege speech yesterday.

Zubiri, chair of the Committee on Dangerous Drugs, said during the Arroyo administration, removed that drug dealers could easily use De Lima's new policy to escape prosecution.

De Lima issued Department Circular No. 002 on Feb. 13, putting drug cases, whether under inquest, preliminary investigation or appeal and that carry the penalty of life in prison, under automatic review by the Office of the Secretary of Justice.

The order requires the submission of the records of the cases to the secretary's office within three days of resolution.

The review must be completed within 30 days, and the suspects may be released from detention unless they were being held on other charges.

Prior to the **issuance** of the order, drug suspects could be released only after the dismissal of their cases or after affirmation on review that they were not guilty.

"This change in policy is a big blow to the campaign against drug violence and traffickers," Enrile said. "[The] circular makes our anti-drug campaign harder because once a suspected big offender, the authorities would not be able to find him anymore."

He added the Senate committees on justice chaired by Sen. Francis Escudero and public order headed by Sen. Gregorio Honasan to invite De Lima to explain the circular.

De Lima said in February that she was under orders to improve the administration of justice by providing "a just, speedy and effective means to resolve drug cases" while respecting human rights.

A MANIFESTO DENOUNCING "FRATERNAL HAZING", A FALSE SENSE OF BROTHERHOOD AND THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

MARC ANDRE H. MARCOS is the latest victim of "fraternal hazing" and a false sense of brotherhood.

We, officers and members of the San Beda Law Alumni Association, are in solidarity with the Bedan community and the entire Filipino nation in denouncing the culture of violence that subjects one to physical, mental or psychological suffering and a false sense of brotherhood by fraternities which practice hazing as a prerequisite for admission.

We denounce as well, in strongest terms, fraternity hazing being morally repugnant and cowardly, and such does not have a place in a just and humane society like ours.

As we condemn violent hazing, we invite the entire legal community and other schools to stand with us as we revisit the basic attitude of schools towards the existence of fraternities, coupled with reasonable regulations, in order to openly monitor its activities, and hopefully eradicate the culture of violence, in the pursuit of genuine brotherhood and peace.

Let the tragic incidents of the past be a time for deep reflection of the Benedictine ideals and values that San Beda College has inculcated in us: ora et labora (work and prayer), and fides, scientia et virtus (faith, knowledge and virtue) – all enabling us "to become fully human, wholly Christian and truly Filipino servant-leaders" dedicated to the cause of freedom, justice and truth.

As we sincerely convey our deepest sympathy and offer special prayers to the aggrieved families of Marc Andre and other hazing victims, we stand committed to attaining justice for them. With faith in the Rule of Law, we know justice is not far behind.

Ut in omnibus glorificetur Deus

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Attested by:
DR. JOVIE MALAGAR, Acting Secretary, San Beda Law Alumni Association

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday - August 7, 2012
Ordinary Time
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 18:6-9; Psalm 33:1, 12, 20-22; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 12:32-48

1st Reading: Wis 18:6-9
This is another word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh:
Deborah, Gashel Israel says, "Water in a bowl: all that I have commissioned to you,
I know them.
"Your ground is favourable,
your inquiry is gracious.
There is no one to plead your cause.
There is no remedy for an abscess
nor no healing for your
till your favour from Egypt to you;
they can't see anything for you.
So I entrust you to an enemy force,
with a cruel punishment,
because of your great guilt
and the multitudinous of your sin.
Why cry out over that you are hurt?
Is there no cure for your pain?
Because of your great crime and grievous sin I have done this to you.
Yahweh says, "I will restore any people into Jacob's tents and Israel's
pity on his dwellings. The city will be rebuilt over its ruins and the
palace restored on its proper place. From them will come songs of
praise and the sounds of merrymaking.
I will multiply them and they shall not be few. I will honour them
and they shall not be despised. Their children will be as before and their community will be established before me. I will call their
oppressors to account.
Their leader will be one of themselves, their ruler shall come up from
their midst. I will bring him close to me for who would dare to approach me? You shall be my people and I shall be your God."
Gospel - Matthew 16:22-36
After the meal had been shared out, Jesus obliged his disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the crowd away.
And having sent the people away, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. It night fall, he was there alone. Meanwhile, the boat was very far from land, dangerously rocked by the waves for the wind was against it.
At daybreak, Jesus came to them walking on the lake. When they saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, thinking that it was a ghost. And they cried out in fear. But at once Jesus said to them, "Courage! Don't be afraid. It's me!" Peter answered, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you walking on the waters."
Jesus said to him, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, walking on the water to go to Jesus. But, in face of the raging wind, he was afraid and began to sink. As he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and took hold of him, saying, "Man of little faith, why did you doubt?"
When they got into the boat, the wind dropped. Then those in the boat bowed down before Jesus saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God!"
This came about at Gennesaret. The local people recognized Jesus and spread the news throughout the region. So they brought all the sick to him, begging him to let them touch just the fringe of his cloak. All who touched it became perfectly well.
Reflection
The strange incident of walking on water is full of symbolic meaning. It signified the power over evil and death. For most of Israel's story Jesus, more or less, forgetting God "trampled the waters of the sea" (Job 9:8). When Jesus walked on the depths of the sea, he showed that he had power over his adversary with God. Why does remember all these strange stories? Because there is a difficult and dead set in the world, and we, and point, and people whose lives are heading for the rocks. And Jesus is still God!

'Manila merited Bourne premiere'

By Hannah L. Cruz

MANILA audiences were treated to an advance screening of the fourth installment of the "Bourne" film series—the first time that a premiere of the spy thriller was held to one of the cities it was filmed in since it was initially produced 12 years ago.

"That's because you deserved it," Americans producer Hal Crowley told the movie audience during the special screening of Tony Gilroy's "The Bourne Legacy" at the Newport Performing Arts Theater at Resorts World Manila on Sunday night.

The screening began at 6:45 p.m. The audience in the 1,500-seat auditorium all applauded the first time they heard Weisz's character mention "Manila."

Most Filipinos first heard about the movie "Manila, the Philippines" flashed on the screen, as well as when the audience first caught a glimpse of the breathtaking islands of Palawan.

Newest thrill ride

Crowley said in his welcome speech that Manila would now be in the same league as cities like Moscow, Paris, Prague, London, New York, Madrid, Bangkok and Berlin because it has become the "newest, most exciting ride in the billion-dollar Bourne" roller coaster."

"Millions and millions of fans worldwide will be seduced through this Manila, and through the Pinoy lifestyle and culture, movie goers frequently flock to see the locations of the film in the movie business, but some will remember that stretched back to apocalypse Now' (1979)."

"What we started interesting [and] actors, we found some great stars," said Crowley during them were John Avella, Madlen Nordin, Lee Mikee, Joel Soto, Ruby Ruiz and Anne Garcia, who all played "minor yet vital" parts in the movie. "We also created a parking lot and trained a stunt group of drivers to jump a straight line and not to flinch as Hollywood stuntmen and cameraperles stood just them with inches to spare."

PRODUCER Hal Crowley thanks Manila during the Bourne premiere at "The Bourne Legacy," the fourth installment of the spy-thriller film series, at Resorts World in Pasay City. The film hunt to some scenes shot in Manila.

Spectacular chase

Crowley also told of the execution of the roofs of some 50 homes in San Andres, Manila, "in a spectacular rooftop chase." He said his team likewise "spent hundreds of hours working with local officials to plan traffic diversions, special parking and constructed as we could make this possible next safe at the same time."

"Bourne Legacy" features a new protagonist, Aaron Cross (played by Jeremy Renner, Academy Award nominee for "The Hurt Locker"), who like Bourne, is a secret agent trained to become an assassin. Also in the movie are Rachel Weisz and Edward Norton.

"The good news is all these officers really worked," Crowley said. "The movie you are about to see is being talked about as horror than the first three, and the Manila chase as one of the best chases ever."

Crowley, who also produced Hollywood hits like "Ben Legend of the Still," "Infamous," "Charlie's Angels" and "Shaolin to Seattle," stressed the successful filming of the latest project would not have been possible "without the support of the Filipino people—from the movie screen to line-makers to the highest government officials."

Thank you, Manila

Crowley, who attended the event with his wife Cat Moon, then introduced a video featuring Bourne's director Tony Gilroy as well as director Gilroy who were all live New York to promote the screenings there.

"We hope you will enjoy the film that has helped us make. Thank you, Manila," Gilroy said.

Lucio "Boy" Tan, Jr. of Philippine Film Studios Inc. (PFSI), the movie's local producer, said he first received an e-mail from Crowley in November 2011, asking him to assist in the filming of the fourth "Bourne" installment. Filming in Manila began on Jan. 11 this year and lasted eight weeks.

Filipinos' excitement

Tan said he felt as a chance "not just to show off Manila but our talent which is real. "He said the only real plan was for the movie to feature Manila they and not El Nido.

The PFSI has been responsible Hollywood films since the 1970s, among them, "Year of Living Dangerously" starring Mel Gibson and Sigourney Weaver (1982); "Rambo" with Charlie Sheen, Tom Berenger and Willem Dafoe (1986); and "Born on the 4th of July" with Tom Cruise (1989). It has also been bringing various Hollywood productions to the Philippines since 2007.

Wilson Tieng, chair and chief executive officer of Solar Entertainment Corp., the film's local distributor, pointed out that "the Philippines may be a major backdrop of the film, but much of the excitement of the Filipinos comes from seeing their home in the big screen, in a way 'The Bourne Legacy' is the outcome of our wants, welcoming outside as a nation."

To members of the Senate and House of Representatives

Sino ang BOSS ninyo?

We are Filipino citizens united in our stand for the PASSAGE OF THE BILL TITLED, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," more popularly known as THE RH BILL.

Is one call from your Bishops more important than the call of millions of Filipinos? Over a period of 10 years, surveys after surveys have shown that 7 out of 10 Filipinos are in favor of the Reproductive Health bill. The majority of Filipinos further say that they will vote for candidates who support family planning/reproductive health programs. Therefore, the RH bill is a major election issue.

Are personal views more important than the lives of 15 mothers dying every day due to pregnancy and childbirth related complications?

While government works to improve our economy and the lives of our people, poverty continues to rise. There are 25 million Filipinos living in absolute poverty, according to official data, but the reality is made unbearable by the fact that more of the poor have more children than they want and can provide for. They have more children than intended due to lack of accurate information on and accessible family planning. Their children are deprived of upon continue to live in slum and shifting lives. And many poor mothers die giving life.

Providing basic education and health care housing and food, as well as creating jobs for the poor are the Government's responsibilities, not the Catholic Church Hierarchy's who do not have the knowledge, capacity or moral intelligence to answer such urgent problems and heartaches.

Are the empty threats from leaders of the Catholic Church more important than the threat of rising cases of HIV and AIDS, which has reached an alarming pace of 1,000 cases per month in January?

We believe that the more than 15 cases of repetitive debates among members of the Senate and the House of Representatives are more than enough time to arrive at a decisive vote on the bill.

We believe that as representatives of Community Organizations, People's Organizations, Civil Society, the RH Church and with broad representations Labor Groups, Business Sector, Academe, Youth Organizations, Non-government Organizations, Artists, Professional Associations, Students, mothers and fathers, we have come together to make our collective voice heard on the critical importance of the RH bill for the well-being of mothers, children, families, and the country's long-term development. Most of even Catholics who believe that reproductive health is a basic right and hence, strongly support the passage of the Reproductive Health bill.

We stand behind the courageous legislative authors and supporters of the bill, most of whom, as believers are Catholics who have remained steadfast amid the hostility and intimidation of the bishops and other anti-RH groups. They have demonstrated responsible stewardship, understanding and compassion for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

We join hands for this national legislation that will significantly improve the lives of our people. This is not about politics or religion. This is about believing that all Filipinos, regardless of socioeconomic status and religion, have the right and the opportunity to live healthy, dignified and fulfilling lives. We believe that mothers will not be deprived if mothers and children are unable to access the full range of reproductive health services and information as intended by the Senate Bill 2865 and House Bill 4244 providing a good-hearted policy framework for responsible parenthood, reproductive health, and population development.

We look on with that you will serve your constituents. We look on with that you will serve the Filipino people. You are obligated to the people who trusted you with their votes. You owe allegiance to the Filipino people, not the Bishops or your parish priests.

EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE BACKS THE CRITICAL NEED FOR THE RH BILL

- Filipino mothers giving birth daily due to pregnancy and childbirth related complications have increased from 11 in 2006 to 15 in 2011-2012, Family Health Survey 2008 and 2011).
- About 25 million Filipinos living in absolute poverty, among whom are many couples having more children than they want and can provide for.
- Half of all pregnancies (about 1.8 million) are unplanned or unintended (1.0 million abortion).
- Teen pregnancies have risen from 14% to 16% during 2006-2011 (Family Health Survey 2011).
- 65% of Filipinos say that Family Planning is a personal choice and that no one should interfere with it (SWS, 2011).
- 70% of Filipinos are in favor of Reproductive Health / Family Planning (SWS surveys).

ANG TAONG BAYAN ANG BOSS NINYO

HINDI

ANG MGA OBISPO!

PASS THE RH BILL. VOTE FOR RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH NOW!

Paid Ads

Bolt blitzes 100 meters in record 9.63 seconds

From page A1

Swansea hair salon in Brixton, the Jamaican enclave in south London, about 14 kilometers from Olympic Stadium.

In victory Bolt wore the Jamaican flag around his shoulders like a superhero cape. He did a cartwheel. He did his famous archer's pantomime and fanboi in the adulation and camera flashes of the crowd, reacting to approval after it had been heaped only moments before on other men.

"It was wonderful," the 25-year-old Bolt said. "I knew it was going to be like this. There wasn't a doubt in my mind."

It was the fastest collective 100 meters ever in history, with second-place finisher Blake running under 10 seconds.

And last years after Bolt won gold at the Beijing Games, he again owned the finish line with everyone else looking at his back. He had promised that he'd smoke the competition in the 100 (9.69 seconds) and 200 (19.30), he improved the marks even further in 2009 in 9.58 and 19.19.

But the last two years had left Bolt scorning video-title from back problems, suspension, and problems with the start of his race and questions about his party-loving personality and untrained resolve.

THAT'S MAN POSE Jamaica's Usain Bolt celebrates after winning the men's 100-meter final during the London Games on Sunday. AP

Blake the Beast

On Sunday's final, Bolt's countrymate and training partner Yohan Blake, 22, had been considered the favorite by some experts.

Blake won the 2011 world championship while Bolt was disqualified for a false start. Blake also beat Bolt on both occasions at the second Jamaican Olympic trials, running him down from behind in the 200, something few thought was possible.

"It gave me a wake-up call," Bolt said. "I'm grateful for that."

Entering Sunday's final, Blake had run the fastest 100 in the world this year. He matched that time on Sunday: 9.75 seconds, equaling the fastest time he had ever run. Still, he had to settle for the silver medal.

Bolt had nicknamed Blake the "Beast" for his unbridgeable training. But it is one thing to train ceaselessly and another to perform in an Olympic final, when nerves and technique mean much speed.

"He works harder than me, but I know what I needed to do and I have great talent," Bolt said of Blake. "He will do better next time because he runs a little stressed this time."

Gatlin gets bronze

The bronze medal went to Justin Gatlin of the United States, who ran 9.79, a personal best.

Gatlin won the 100 at the 2004 Athens Games, but the legitimacy of his achievement was later compromised by a four-year suspension in 2006 for a positive test for steroids.

He has denied knowingly taking banned substances, claiming that he was sabotaged by a massage therapist who rubbed an illicit cream into his legs. At 30, Gatlin is faster than ever. Track fans will continue to debate whether that is cause for celebration or renewed suspicion.

"It just feels good to be back," Gatlin said.

On Sunday night, Gatlin appeared to be ahead at about 60 meters. Bolt, who is 6 feet 5 inches and seems to unfurl out of the blocks, said he slipped a bit at the start and grew concerned for a moment.

Some experts have said Bolt appeared to rise at too sharp an angle in recent races, reducing the power of his early drive down the track.

No need to rush

But Bolt's results had told him to stop worrying so much about the start and to concentrate on the finish with his long, elegant, churning strides.

Four sprinters exerted more quickly to the starter's gun, but Bolt did not rush himself.

Someone threw a beer bottle onto the track in his lane, behind the starting blocks. Bolt simply leaped it and did not notice.

He seemed relaxed and zoomed to gain the lead between 60 and 80 meters, accelerating to peak speed and then losing less of his velocity than the others during him.

Bolt crossed the line with 12-hundredths of a second of daylight, a considerable amount when a mere thimes drives of time often makes the difference between first and second.

"When I got to 50 meters, I knew I was going to do well at set that," Bolt said.

"So I just ran. It was a lot. A lot of people doubted me. I wanted to show the world I'm still No. 1, still the best."

As Bolt approached the finish, his own job done with such remarkable quickness, he thought about celebrating over the final meters as he had done in Beijing, then decided against it.

"Nah," he said he told himself. "Just run through the line."

New York Times News Service

Talk of 'boxing mafia' rises following scandals

From page A1

This was the reaction of some Philippine boxing officials to the controversial defeat suffered by light flyweight Mark Anthony Barriga to Serikbay Zhabayev of Kazakhstan in their round of 16 fight last weekend.

"This time the Mafia is worse," said Manny Lopez, former president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap), he pointed to Kazakhstan and China — a front-runner in the several medal race in the Olympics — as the new "Lords of the Ring."

The "Lord of the Rings" is a fantasy trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien about a cursed ring that corrupts whoever has it. In the Tolkien classic the main ring needs to be destroyed to save the fictional world of Middle-Earth.

So is the Mafia in boxing really still around and Barriga its latest victim?

Allegations of corruption

International boxing had been tarnished for years by allegations of fight-fixing, bribery and corruption under the scandal-rocked, 20-year rule of Pakistan's Anwar Chowdry as president of the International Amateur Boxing Association (IABA).

Chowdry was disgraced and ousted in 2008 and replaced by Wu Ching-kuo of Taiwan, who promised reforms. This prompted the International Olympic Committee to restore IABA to good standing after freezing its share of more than a million dollars a session in consecutive disbursements in the 2004 Olympics.

Lopez and his father, former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez, fought Chowdry for years and helped in ousting him.

The younger Lopez believes a new Mafia has replaced the old one.

"Nothing has changed," Lopez said the morning after Barriga was slapped two penalties — worth a total of four points for his opponent — that cost him his fight against Zhabayev. "We lost to the referee, not to the Kazakhstan fighter," he said.

Holding and wrestling

Lopez said it was a no-no for referees to impose penalties on fighters in the third round — unless the infractions were very blatant — because this could change the complexion of the fight and tilt the balance in favor of an undeserving fighter.

That's exactly what happened to Barriga, who was penalized twice without receiving a warning of caution in the third round and tied by a single point, 11-11.

Under the rules, a referee may caution or give a warning to an offending fighter. A "caution" is without a penalty but a "warning" is more serious, with two points added to the score of the other boxer.

Philippine officials said Barriga was a victim of Zhabayev's hubris and wrestling the whole fight. In fact, the Kazakh was cautioned time and again without incurring a warning.

Others also surprised

In the third round, Zhabayev pushed Barriga down the mat, to everyone's surprise, the referee gave a warning to the Filipino — adding two points to the Kazakh's score — for backing to close.

In the dying seconds, the Kazakh again wrestled Barriga, slamming him to the canvas and going down himself. As soon as they got up with one second to go, the referee penalized both players.

"The referee favored the fighter from Kazakhstan," said Lopez, who's here as chief of mission of the Philippine delegation.

Lopez said an English referee had shown disbelief at the outcome of the fight, saying he had not seen anything like it in 12 years as a boxing referee.

Chowdry is gone. He was ousted in 2008 (he died in 2013), but Lopez said that despite Wu's promise of reforms, nothing had changed.

Kazakhstan's influence

Among the elite IABA members that have complained of alleged continuing corruption in IABA under Wu's rule are France, the United States, Thailand and India.

To illustrate Kazakhstan's dominance in boxing, it qualified a total 11 fighters at the London Olympics, including two women. Of the nine men, six have made it to the quarterfinals.

Another indication of Kazakhstan's influence, Lopez said, is its decision to hold the IABA boxing center in Astana, its new capital. Its $8 million (another account says it's worth $13 million).

The question, Lopez said, is: Would Wu announce such a generous bid?

Haves vs have-nots

Barriga's opponent, Zhabayev, was his best fight by a combined total of two points. He won over Jeremy Bacus of France by a single point after trailing going into the third round, a win roundly booed by the crowd.

He was clearly losing to Barriga until Canadian referee Robert Lobo intervened giving into the final minute and a half of the fight.

For Abap president Ricky Vargas, it's no longer just a fight between two boxers. Very often, it's also "a fight between the haves and the have-nots," Vargas said.

"It's very hard to win in boxing," Lopez lamented. "We have to fight on two fronts, on and off the ring."

Advice from Pacquiao

At home, boxing superstar and Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao had a piece of advice for Barriga.

"He should not have hope because he will have his chance to fight again in the future. He showed his skill, stamina and strength," Pacquiao told reporters after leading a Bible-sharing session at the anniversary of the Philippine Community Relations Group in Camp Crame.

Pacquiao himself lost a controversial split decision to US boxer Timothy Bradley in their world welterweight title fight in Las Vegas last June.

"It's a pity (the Barriga) had a good chance to win ... I thought he could beat his opponent. But he could aim it well (for)," Pacquiao said, adding Barriga must focus on his training to improve his skills and be ready for his future fights.

"(Barriga) should learn from his experiences so he can understand what he should do next time," he said. **With a report from Marlon Ramos**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Stock manipulation

EDITORIAL

THE DISCOVERY of stock price manipulation involving shares of the recently listed agricultural trading firm Calata Corp. indicates that it's not "business as usual" in the local bourse. The Philippine Stock Exchange has indeed evolved from the old boys' club of the 1980s to a professionally run exchange.

Taking center stage in the stock exchange's drive to prevent unscrupulous trading in the independently run Capital Markets Integrity Corp. (CMIC), a unit of the Philippine Stock Exchange mandated to curb price manipulation and insider trading. Armed with a self-regulatory status, the CMIC has the power to sanction erring member-brokers with suspension, fines or a revocation of license. However, recommendations for court prosecution must still be referred to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which may draft a criminal complaint that, in turn, is to be submitted to the Department of Justice for legal action.

Last May 8, the CMIC launched a state-of-the-art surveillance system called "Total Market Surveillance" or TMS, which was developed by the Korea Exchange (KRX). CMIC said it was very advanced and customized to Philippine conditions that even the Korean bourse commented that after the PSE's enhancements, the local system was now "even better" than the original.

The private sector watchdog acquired the new surveillance system just before Calata's P270-million initial public offering (IPO) and subsequent listing on May 23. Calata shares rose 90.91% on first day in a public frenzy to P7.70 each from an initial offer price of P7.00. In two weeks after listing, however, shares of Calata shares skyrocketed 794 billion and the stock price soared to P23.95, only to plummet to P9 in just four days.

The SEC was furnished late last month with the CMIC investigation results that reportedly presented a "clear case" of manipulation of the stock price of Calata. The Inquirer quoted sources who saw the report as saying that the CMIC had identified several persons who engaged in the unscrupulous trading of Calata shares. The CMIC believed they were only "characters" (some of them live in Batanes where Calata's operations are located) who were not sophisticated or moneyed enough to do such trades. The investigation has also traced those who had given money to finance these transactions, and it believes this is not the first time that this group has committed such infraction.

"We must note, with the establishment of the (surveillance) system, together with the essential collaboration of trading participants, the confidence of the investing public in capital market institutions shall be reinforced further and a more active and vibrant market participation will be truly promoted," said CMIC chair Jose Luis Javier.

The confidence was shattered by the infamous BW fiasco-cum-scandal in 1998 involving businessman Dante Tan, a friend of martial President Joseph Estrada, and a number of stockbrokers. Capitalizing on his close relations with Estrada, Tan was able to secure gambling licenses for BW from the then-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. This aroused interest among brokers and investors in BW. Then came reports that Macau's gambling tycoon Stanley Ho was investing in the company. BW defied the depressed sentiment in the stock market arising from the Asiatic crisis of 1997 such that in just a year (from October 2000 to October 2000), BW shares surged a mind-boggling 16,000 percent to P145 from only 90 centavos.

This irregular price movement triggered investigations and a PSE probe found enough evidence to build a case against Tan and a number of local brokerage firms that allegedly helped the BW owner manipulate the company's stock price.

In December 2000, the justice department charged Tan and several other cohorts with price manipulation. It said Tan violated the Revised Securities Act for engineering the rise in BW's share price in 1999 and failing to disclose his "beneficial ownership" in the gaming company. Sadly, the lower court dismissed the criminal complaint. But in 2008, the Court of Appeals reversed the lower court's decision and ordered the criminal prosecution of Tan and company for the insider trading and stock price manipulation incident. Tan has reportedly fled the country and the case remains pending in court.

More than a decade since the BW scandal nearly caused the collapse of the local stock markets, the government has yet to convict anyone of insider trading or price manipulation.

In the current case of Calata, the ball is again in the hands of the SEC. This gives it a big opportunity to show that it too can be part of the Aquino administration's "matuwid na daan" crusade.

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Not the last word

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

HALF A world and almost six years to separate the two men. Bishop Thaddeus Ma Dagyol of Dumpu in 2012 and Lord Chancellor of England Thomas More in 1535. Yet, they resemble each other in what matters.

Both rose through dedicated service. More served as king Henry VIII's most trusted counselor. Dagyol invested in the Pentecost Catholic Church (PCC), a missionary Christ's agency to Arab Catholics.

More refused assent to Henry VIII's divorce from the Roman Catholic See of Aragon to marry Anne Boleyn. For spurning the First Succession Act, which "declared" Henry VIII as the Church of England's head, More was imprisoned.

"To defy the king means death," a mentor got warned. "Is that all, my Lord?" More replied. "All that means is I will die today and you will die tomorrow." He last words on the scaffold (as 1535 were "I die the King's good servant—but God's first."

RCBC Ignatius Cathedral in Shanghai, Dagyol said allies his ordination as bishop: "Does you assume your pastoral job, your body and heart should be completely focused on pastoral things." He quit the PGA.

"The congregation broke out in loud applause," Washington Post reported. "Beijing's attitude toward all faiths has been hardening, particularly as the cases in a decade transition of the ruling Communist party unfold. The bishop disappeared. Caesar demanded for itself what should be rendered to God.

Fast forward to "International Religious Freedom Report 2011," just released by the US State Department. Today, more than a billion live under governments that severely restrict people's ability to worship. "How technologies have given repressive governments additional tools." They include the use of anti-blasphemy laws or harassment on access to cell religious groups.

Thirty-two countries "demonstrated" in China where only five state-sanctioned "patriotic religious associations" may legally hold worship services in state-approved sites: Buddhist, Taoist, Muslim, Catholic and Protestant. But Catholics professing loyalty to the Vatican are not permitted to register. Hence vicars are Baptists, etc. Celebrating or preaching in "unregistered" places of worship is proscribed. Spiritual groups, like Falun Gong, are outlawed. Underlining on China's home churches, such as the blossoming church in Beijing, continues. Communist Party members must be atheists.

Muslims living in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region encounted severe interference. Similarly suppressed was the Tibetan Buddhist community. Repeat invasion into Buddhist monasteries and monasteries sparked at least 12 self-immolations by Tibetans.

"Religious freedom does not exist in any form" in North Korea. Pyongyang has four state-controlled churches. One is designated Catholic. The government-established Korean Catholic Association supposedly serves The Changchun church. "It has no ties with the Vatican. Nor are there Catholic priests residing in the country. Missionaries are arrested. Scarcity of information makes it difficult to confirm reports on imprisonments of believers."

In contrast, religious freedom is "generally respected in law and practice" by Buddhist Thailand, Catholic Philippines, Confucian Singapore and Muslim Indonesia. But Jakarta recently increased and imprisoned individuals under its blasphemy law.

Burma released Buddhist monks arrested in the 2007 saffron revolt. But others continue to serve long prison sentences. The government refused to grant citizenship to the Muslim Rohingya ethnic minority in violation and imposed restrictions on movement and marriage.

Christians face challenges in Germany. The government holds religious prisoners. Hundreds of churches await registration by local authorities in the northwest highlands. Ouster has not followed the publication of the Bible in the modern Hwong Language, despite pleading to do so.

Governments increasingly use blasphemy, apostasy and defamation of religion laws to suppress liberties. In Pakistan, individuals calling for reform of blasphemy laws continue to be killed. A Christian tourist, Aasia Bibi, is awaiting an appeal of her 2010 death sentence for blasphemy. The verdict sounded off a debate within the country.

Russia previously suspect religious freedom. But violent extremism in the North Caucasus region led to the use of the "Law on Combating Extremist Activity" to justify raids on religious organizations, detain and restrict the freedom to worship of minority group members. This pattern is reflected in Bahrain, Iraq and Nigeria. "Sectarian" often failed to distinguish between peaceful religious practice and criminal or terrorist activities."

Especially affected are minorities, caught in the midst of political and demographic transitions. Agape took greater measures for greater safety. Likewise, the PCC stepped up efforts to keep against Coptic Christians. The Libyan Supreme Court overturned a law that criminalized insults against Islam. But Gaddafi-era laws remained in the books.

Countries in Europe are becoming more ethnically, racially and religiously diverse. These demographic changes are sometimes accompanied by growing xenophobia, anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim sentiment, and intolerance toward people considered "the other." Belgium and France have been removing Christian headscarves, while Muslims and others in Zamboanga City, the Muslim community is upset by a 91-1st College policy that bans wearing of the hijab (women's Muslim head scarf).

Despite almost of religious freedom, "change for the worse" in 2011. The report stresses, Countries whose constitutions, laws and practices protect religious freedom and human rights laws the most were least available. "Intolerance does not have the last word." *the US report says.*

(Email: juan_mercado@yahoo.com)

Obfuscation is corruption

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"YOU KNOW," says Linguist-Dogmatic Archbishop Socrates Villegas, "when candidates, now President Noynoy Aquino, said during his campaign, 'Kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap,' Contraception is corruption. The use of government money, taxpayers' money to give out contraceptive pills is corruption. Contraceptive pills teach us it is all right to have sex with someone provided you are safe from babies. Babies are a nuisance ..."

What a thing to say.

At very least, it's hypocritical. I've always wondered why priests and their superiors pass themselves off as marriage or indeed sex counselors when they have nothing down the nave or the other. At least about marriage, they know a lot about sex, firsthand. But I'll get to that. Certainly, they're absolutely useless. The bishop shuffleth, not volunteering a safe in the throes of it (or indeed carrying a child for nine months), and not witnessing, or particularly wanting to witness, women giving birth in outer-sat touch. Sex on charity and robocrats, under cane-headchewing pedophiliac audiences.

Which by itself constitutes a formidable argument for having women priests (or pastors). What theological reason is there not to? They should have a better appreciation for the agony as much as the ecstasy of child-giving. In fact, they should have a better appreciation for the agony—the ecstasy is debatable—of child-rearing. Particularly the rearing not of one or two children but a dozen of them, separated by only years, the mother emaciated and looking 70 after all those births, scrutinizing others for the crumbs that come from to hand the bread, never mind buy medicine for the sick middle child, or outrock as luxury, steal one or two to school shoeless, ironically named after a wise man, should step out of his archbishop's palace, and smell the real world.

Yes, that's the word: "wise men" as someone." don't look at those who believe in experiencing the lives, joy and sheer bliss of sex—you, Virginia, sex is not evil...nuisance assiduously producing "an food table" months. Look only at those priests and bishops who like having sex with their practitioners, or indeed as the scandals nothing the Vatican above, harassing them, and having babies by them. The only thing going for them is that they practice what they preach, they do not use condoms. But after having babies by them, leaving them to rear them, if not abandoning them altogether. (Priests are a man of conduct once you might tell them so, how having nothing to do with it. Children encounter us, they are not just a nuisance, they are living reminders, not a prop and indictments, of one's fall from grace. They have to be renounced, doubt to be known as father to individuals to further.

In the very most, it's paradoxical. You mock at P-Noy's "pag walang corrupt, walang mahirap," you dismiss the one thing that has given this country hope for a better life. You give an P-Noy's "pag walang corrupt, walang mahirap," you create a dirty finger at the one thing that embodies decency, morality and spirituality in this country, which is government's desire to punish the tyrants of the past, to jail the criminals of the past, the better to not make them and their underlings carry coconuts the future.

No, more than that, you say "Contraception is corruption," you corrupt the very meaning of corruption, you corrupt the very essence of corruption, you champion the holigans of the plague and applaud the vermenous the decay, the putrescence that have spread upon this land. You say "Contraception is corruption," you say that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whom you have welcomed with open arms, it put on the dresses more, how can she be corrupt, she

have contraception, how can she be corrupt when she is one of us?

You say "Contraception is corruption," you say there's nothing wrong with being put in Malacañang by fraud and not God, there's nothing wrong with cohabitation, there's nothing wrong with bringing the Lorenzo and ensuring activists to keep power, there's nothing wrong with punishing the innocent and rewarding the guilty.

You say, "Contraception is corruption," you say there's nothing wrong with Bishop saying "Love your enemy anyway" when their flock has just kissed Arroyo planting with Garci in Subay, a public school teacher for having educated senator-hood, for defending her to the death or at least to the end of her term and quite possibly beyond, a threat thwarted only by Cory departing for heaven. You say, "Contraception is corruption," you say there's nothing corrupt about bashing to Arroyo's call to pray for her but being deaf to the prayer of those she lied to, cheated, stole from. Who cares about them, they're poor, they do not speak Spanish or Latin, which is the language of God, and, hell, they probably are communists anyway?

You say, "Contraception is corruption," you find nothing laughable about being deeply concerned from your pulpit about the unchanged feet about what Filipino Catholics steal flying in a tissue paper or in a condom, runaway money, it's a prosperous baby that won't be born, but being smug about the nonsense she does to keep gun bosses in and exile Arroyo's critics to Siberia, or Basilan, or, probably with impunity, as he harkishly won't laugh at him for being down and tambucho.

You say, "Contraception is corruption," how in God's name can you be Socrates? You say "Contraception is corruption," you condemn the world God's cannot to a living hell.

No, contraception is not corruption. Hypocrisy is. Ignorance is.

Obfuscation is.

Harnessing 'bayanihan'

NO FREE LUNCH

Clarito F. Barbito

40,167,00) you do with more than half a million Filipino college graduates who are jobless? How do you keep the increasing numbers of retired senior citizens productively occupied and lucky them keep from aging rapidly out of inactivity?

There were 2.8 million Filipinos without jobs as of last April, according to our supposedly trained statistics. Four out of five are no more than 34 years old. Our unemployed are mostly young, but many in every five is actually a college graduate. A waste of precious education, nice might be a temperance or an

And yet this need not be, for about a third of what the government wants to spend next year for conditional cash transfers (CCT), the more than half a million unemployed college graduates in the country could easily be gainfully occupied in various development activities. They can be put to work in schools, health centers, local government units, grassroots NGOs, and other counterparts in activities that could use some help from a college graduate. This it is fact already being done, albeit on a very limited scale, by the Gawad Kalinga humble but highly beneficial government program that has been around for many years.

The program is administered by the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), which is attached to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda). The agency coordinates the various foreign volunteer programs operating within the country, such as the US Peace Corps; Jesuit Volunteers Philippines; Overseas Christian Volunteers International; Youth Peace Initiative (YPI); and others. PNVSCA coordinates the deployment of these volunteers to achieve maximum benefits for the country. It also takes responsibility for ensuring the safety of the volunteers and enabling their experiences in the country a personally and professionally rewarding one.

But what Teddy proposes significance is not in the agency's local volunteer programs known as bayanihan or Information and Development Assistance (NDA), and the associated Bayanihang Kabataan, invoking the Filipino bayanihan spirit, volunteers are deployed to work in communities and institutions engaged in various aspects of development work. Most of the volunteers are fresh college graduates who sign up after finding difficulty landing a job. They get a modest P2,000 monthly allowance, with the host organization expected to augment the overseas adequate support for the volunteer's sustenance needs. A volunteer can be supported for up to three years.

The beauty of the program lies in how it provides a way for society to harness the talents and energies of young educated people who would otherwise be idle, subsequently losing much of the service in fellow Filipinos while gaining valuable field experience that then enhances their employability later on. Apart from experience, the volunteers gain much deeper appreciation of working as the grassroots level and solving problems where they occur. Many of the current foreign volunteers who leave the comfort of home to take on such developmental work overseas, they are likely to come out of the experience as more responsible citizens who are better equipped for their longer term careers. The benefits don't stop there. They also accrue to the host institutions and communities that benefit from his her service.

There's also a very important segment of the population for whom a community development volunteer stint can be a godsend: our senior citizens. Countless members of our population from all walks of life remain healthy and productive even well past retirement, and would prefer to keep themselves meaningfully busy rather than spend up their aging through idleness. A of liberal scientists abroad, we see them doing volunteer work in public libraries, community centers and other places where they can continue contributing their skills, knowledge and talents for the good of the community. There is no reason why we cannot organize a program for harnessing retirement among Filipino senior citizens as well—and actually do them a favor even as society benefits from their help. And I suspect we would indirectly improve the general health of our senior citizens for whom fulfillment and a feeling of self-worth can be far more efficacious than medication.

But for all its virtues, the Neda program remains very limited, with only tens of volunteers supported for a very few communities. Expanding the volunteer effort challenges Inclusive high unemployment and low productivity, a nationwide volunteer program can be an important instrument for addressing these problems and more, all at the same time. It is a program that yields multiple dividends.

As we allot tens of billions of pesos—a billion of CCT beneficiaries, I see similar benefits—maybe more—in scaling up and expanding the Neda program into a National Development Volunteer Service, to connect not just with the

RENE HERRERA
ATHLETICS MEN'S 5000 METERS PHILIPPINE TEAM
TO THE LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS

Know more about Rene and the rest of the Philippine Team, visit:
http://www.inquirer.net/olympics
INQUIRER.net

Genuine Ocampo paintings

I WRITE to you in reaction to Cid Reyes' July 30 Lifestyle unruly titled "Serious doubts cast on newly-emerged cache of 108 Ocampo paintings," which implied that the works that I have authenticated are not my father's.

Let me state for the record that I, Serena Ocampo-Flores, the daughter and the countrapparent administrator of the estate of the late National Artist Hernando R. Ocampo, lived with my father in the same residence until his death in 1976. I acted as his personal secretary and served him in various capacities during his lifetime. I authenticated the paintings based on the fact that I personally saw my father create those works of art.

I take offense in the article as it seems to attack and ruin my reputation as well as my father's. I assure the public that the paintings I authenticated are genuine creations of my father's.

The alleged dubious origins of these works of art have tainted our family's good name and reminded the memory of my father.

LETTERS

The opinions of art critics are valuable to the industry, however, such opinions cannot go to the authenticity of works of art. It saddens me and my family that Reyes' article now casts doubt on the authenticity of my father's works, considering Reyes' stature in the art community.

I request that in the spirit of fair play this letter be given the same space and publicity as the article of Reyes. The allegations and observations of the writer, as well as his enemy stone sources, are damaging to my family's reputation.

—SERENA OCAMPO-FLORES,
Quezon City

PH cosponsor of resolution on Internet rights

THIS REFERS to the article titled "Internet freedom and our DFNs" (Inquirer, 7/22/12) which stated that "surprisingly, the Philippines voted with China and North Korea against Internet freedom," referring to Resolution A/HRC/20/L.13 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet.

Contrary to this assertion, the Philippines, along with 84 other countries, cosponsored the resolution. It was adopted without a vote on July 5, 2012.

The Philippines' stand on this issue is consistent with the constitutional guarantee on freedom of expression.

This fact is stated on Page 19 of the report of the rapporteur of the 20th Session of the UN Human Rights Council.

—RICO S. BIANASIBEL,
spokesperson,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Death claim pending with SSS for almost 2 years

ON OCT. 11, 2010, I sent a letter to Emilio de Quiros, president and chief executive officer of the Social Security System, on behalf of my daughter Edna Collano vda. Santos, whose husband, Carlos M. Santos (SS-No. 03-8000434-1) died on June 5, 2010. In the letter, I called his attention to the delayed release of my daughter's claim for the death benefits of her late husband. As ordered by the SSS branch office, the submitted all the documents pertaining to the death.

More than two years have passed and as to date has been made by the branch office. June 8, Socorro referred my daughter to Laura M. Montano. You still drove has been no action. I even wrote Joel B. Nilacio two times about the predicaments of my daughter. But I received no reply.

My daughter is in dire straits. In order to survive with her two children she sold her house. Pliers will she realize her prayers of getting her legitimate claim?

—HERMOGENES C. GALURA,
105 Amparo St., Purok 1-B,
Barangay Potrero, Angeles City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Bgy. and Mayor de Jesus, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4592, 897-4594, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

IPPRP RH

ITO ANG TOTOO!

IN 2009, HALF OF ALL PREGNANCIES – 1.9 MILLION – WERE UNPLANNED
University of the Philippines Population Institute/Guttmacher, 2011

TEENAGE PREGNANCIES ROSE FROM 29 IN 2006 TO 54 PER 1000 TEENAGERS IN 2011
National Statistics Office Family Health Survey

SINCE 2011, 15 FILIPINO MOTHERS DIE EVERYDAY DUE TO COMPLICATIONS IN PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH
National Statistics Office Family Health Survey

OVER 25 MILLION FILIPINOS LIVE IN ABSOLUTE POVERTY
New Poverlines, 2011

70% OF FILIPINOS ARE IN FAVOR OF THE PASSAGE OF THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH BILL
Social Weather Stations Survey, 2011

Interfaith Group's Statement of Support for the Reproductive Health Bill

We, the members of the Interfaith Partnership for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood, Inc. (IPPRP), composed of various faith-based organizations, aspiring to strengthen the institutions of marriage and family life, journey with the Filipino people to build a better nation.

We are disturbed by the recent discourses on the proposed Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RP/RH) bill that tend to divide instead of cultivate healthy debates among faith-based groups, academia, government, and civil society organizations to freely discuss science- and evidence-based information as the basis for an intelligent decision.

After deep reflection and prayer, we have come to realize not to dwell on divisive debates but focus on more proactive actions on how we can address the issues of poverty, hunger, humanitarian crises caused by natural calamities and hazards, gender inequality, inadequate healthcare and other social problems brought about or exacerbated by unmanaged population growth.

Compelled by the verdicts of the empirical evidence shown to us by experts and the scientific community, we intensify our call to the country's leaders to work for the welfare and dignity of the Filipino people.

We urge our legislators to seriously push for the passage of the long-overdue RP/RH bill toward its immediate implementation. We believe that the bill is truly pro-life, pro-family, pro-poor, and pro-national-development. This is the legacy that you, our leaders, will be remembered by the Filipino people for generations to come. Furthermore, we call upon President Aquino to diligently work on a sound population policy, of which the RP/RH bill is the principal instrument.

'Secular as a religion serves the virtue of humanity, secular as its teachings on faith and morals, its rites and institutions support human beings in their human identity and allows them to gain a meaningful and fruitful existence. It is a true and good religion...Secular as it hinders human beings in their identity, meaningfulness, and valuableness...and fails to achieve a meaningful and fruitful existence, it is false and bad religion.' – Hans Küng, eminent Roman Catholic theologian

As leaders of various faiths, we reaffirm our commitment to journey with our leaders and all Filipinos to work on this legacy and fulfill the common mission for a better tomorrow. We are one with the whole nation in its fight to improve the quality of life for each and every Filipino.

"THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY; I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL."
–JESUS CHRIST (JOHN 10:10, NIV BIBLE)

Paid Advertisement

Floods hit Metro Manila

From page A1

ance of rainfall in the metropolis. By then 11 p.m. Sunday to 2 a.m. yesterday, rose relatively high at 31 cubic meters.

The amount of rainfall in the metropolis and other parts of Luzon increased water levels in rivers in three and twos, causing flooding and the evacuation of thousands of residents in low-lying areas in Quezon City, Marikina City, and Rizal and Bulacan provinces.

In Iloilo, one person drowned due to heavy rains since Sunday that forced the suspension of classes in seven towns on Monday.

At least four domestic flights were canceled yesterday morning due to bad weather, the Manila International Airport Authority said.

Grave alert, flooding

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) warned yesterday the grave alert over Metro Manila, as the "habagat" (southwest monsoon) combined to bring heavy rainfall in the metropolis.

The grave alert means that relentless rains will cause flooding and that residents are advised to prepare for floods.

As of 2 p.m., Pagasa weather forecaster Shirley Fabregas said that Metro Manila was flood-free and still flooding.

At 7 km. might, many parts of Metro Manila were flooded.

Storm 'Haikui'

Pagasa weather forecaster Jori Loto said the effect of the monsoon, coupled with tropical storm "Haikui," has already left the PAR, spanning 770 kilometers east of northern Luzon as of 4 p.m. yesterday, might more close to the Philippine Area of Responsibility and enhance the habagat.

"For now, the center of the storm seems is being enhanced by the pull of Tropical Storm 'Haikui.' But should the LPA develop more fully, it might enhance the southwest monsoon and bring more rains," Loto said.

The monsoon is moving northeast toward Haikui, which is moving westward toward southern Japan.

Evacuations

Rising water in the Marikina River and flooding spanned by the La Mesa Dam, according to spilling level yesterday prompted the evacuation of close to 800 families in Quezon City.

Emmy Reyes, an Sunday based officials in Sitio Aloe Vera, Barangay Payatas near the Marikina River.

By 2 a.m., yesterday, the river's water level had reached 17 meters prompting officials to give residents the option of voluntary evacuation. A water level of 19.60 meters will be the spillway's critical level.

Dennis Carlos of the Manila Water Services 181 and 1,352 people from Barangays Mahablay and Tumana opted to evacuate as soon as the second alarm was declared at around 1 a.m.

A second alarm means that water in the Marikina River was at least 16 m above sea level. By 8:00 a.m., water in the river went down to 15.9 m but the amount of rainwater increased.

At about 11 a.m., the city government declared a state of calamities in the province, elementary and high school levels in all public and private schools.

Action officers Elmo San Diego of the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council said that by 3 p.m. yesterday, 279 families, or 1,089 persons, had evacuated from Barangay Bagong Silangan, which is near the San Mateo River, a tributary of the Marikina River.

Reports of the Mesa Dam functioning in spilling level likewise drew more than 400 families to flee from their homes near the Tullahan River.

The level at which La Mesa starts to overflow is above 80.15 m. La Mesa dam had been reopening its gates to ease water level since it is a spill dam that is much like a giant infinity pool.

In Rizal province, more than 1,500 families left their homes on Monday due to flooding, according to the Provincial Disaster and Management Council (DRRMC) in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon (Calabarzon).

The monitoring rain flooded the towns of San Mateo where 1113 families were evacuated and Cainta where 10 families left their homes as of 11 a.m.

In Rodriguez town, 3,466 families from four villages were evacuated to public schools and reserved resorts at around 3 a.m. on Monday.

EMBAC Regional Director Victorino Tomawis said forced evacuation was implemented after the water level in the Marikina River rose to more than 20 m between 3 a.m. to 9 a.m. Rodriguez Mayor Cecilio Hernandez ordered the suspension of classes in all levels.

Rollo

At least 23 families, or 102 persons, were also evacuated in Nueva Lucena town in Iloilo, according to the Provincial Disaster Risk and Reduction Management Council (PDRRMC).

Classes up to the elementary school level were suspended in the towns of Dingle, Barotac Nuevo, San Miguel, Barotac and Anilao due to flooding.

Jerry Bense of the PDRRMC identified the fatality as Ayla Castillo, 15, who drowned in Oton town on Sunday afternoon.

The heavy rains also forced the temporary closure of Iloilo City's dump in Barangay Calajunan at Mandurriao District.

Dam gates opened

As heavy rains continue to pound Luzon, four dams have kept their gates open to release water in an attempt to stabilize levels and avert possible damage in the facilities.

But the Dagupa Surbmeteorology division (DRRD) alerted residents in San Carlos City and at least 17 municipalities in Pangasinan province that they may be flooded as a result of water released from San Roque Dam.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, the Pagasa DRRD reported that San Roque in Bolaoan had kept one gate open after the water level reached 000.02 m, short of its 300.00 m capacity.

Ambuklao Dam in Benguet kept two gates open by 1.5 m after the water level reached its normal holding capacity of 1091 m and Binga Dam in Benguet province had its gate opened at 209.55 m.

Virgilio Garcia, in charge of the flood forecasting and warning system for dam operations of National Power Corp. (Napocor), said San Roque Dam would continue spilling water until its elevation dropped to 280 m. The dam's maximum water elevation is 280 m.

Overt disaster

But Gov. Amado Espino Jr. has urged a repeat of the 2009 massive flooding in the province, urged Napocor to keep the dam's water level below 280 m to provide space for rainwater that may be dumped by incoming typhoons.

The dam was blamed for flooding in 2009 after Ondoy left 95 towns and cities and ravaged some P4-billion worth of crops, fish, roads, bridges and other infrastructure. Napocor's dam operators opened all the dam's spillway gates when it was about to reach its full capacity.

Espino said the city administration is expected to further blame the Agno River, where the water level had been raised by its utilization—the irrigation, hydrosiring and hydroelectric power.

The swelling rivers caused flooding in low-lying areas of the municipalities of Sta. Barbara, Calasiao, Binmaley, Mangaldan, Mabalacat-on-well as Dagupan and Urdaneta cities in Pangasinan.

In Bulacan province, Pelaan-na Municipal, provincial disaster chief, said that at least 10 barangays in Calumpit town was under a foot high.

Flooding seven was under 2.5 feet of floodwater aggravated by the high tide. Municipal said. With reports from Artemio Tobias Portugal, Jaime Gilbuena and Willie Gallego in Manila, Carmelo Reyes Zarcepe, Inquirer Central Luzon, Gabriel Carabinosa, Inquirer Northern Luzon, Marlene Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Nestor B. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

Robotic explorer lands on Mars

From page A1

signal reached Earth at 10:32 p.m. Manila time (1:32 p.m. Monday in Manila), Curiosity boasted back the first black-and-white pictures from inside the crater showing its wheel and its shadow, cast by the afternoon sun.

"I can't believe this. This is unbelievable," said Chen, the deputy lead of the rover's entry, descent and landing team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California.

"It looks like we landed in a nice flat spot. Beautiful, really beautiful," said engineer Adam Steltzner, who led the team that devised the risky landing routine.

It was Nasa's seventh landing on the neighbor to many orbiters or actempts by the United States and other countries to say past, circle or set down on Mars have gone awry.

The arrival was an engineering tour de force, debuting several before-used

MAKE-OR-BREAK DESCENT Members of the Mars Science Laboratory team celebrate inside the Spaceflight Operations Facility for Nasa's Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity rover at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory after receiving the first low images from the rover.

planet was sooner and sooner unlike today's hustle. Digital desert environment.

Curiosity's goal: to scout for basic ingredients essential for life including carbon, nitrogen, phosphorous, sulfur and oxygen. It's not equipped to search for living or fossil microorganisms. To get a definitive answer, a future mission needs to fly Martian rocks and soil back to Earth to be examined by powerful laboratories.

The mission comes as Nasa spends its Mars exploration strategy flared with tough economic times, the space agency pulled out of partnership with the European Space Agency to land a rock-collecting rover in 2018.

The Europeans have since teamed with the Russians as Nasa dwindles on a new road map.

Spacecraft graveyard

Despite Mars' reputation as a spacecraft graveyard, humans nonetheless have been affair with the planet, lobbing spacecraft in search of clues about its early history.

Out of more than three dozen known attempts—Rubes, orbiters and landings—by the United States, Soviet Union, Europe and Japan since the 1960s, more than half have ended disastrously.

One Nasa rover that defied expectations is Opportunity, which is still busy schooling around the rim of a crater in the Martian southern hemisphere eight years later. Reports from Opportunity and New York Times News Service

A think tank like no other for young PH scholars

From page A1

has been lacking in the Philippines' intellectual landscape.

It's a think tank like no other, a neutral voice that brings together Filipino thinkers from around the world in a single home of ideas.

The center is touted to be "the only academic research institution in the Philippines dedicated to the scientific analysis and interactional assessment of local and regional legislation, policies and political perspectives."

If Rik the gap Filipino scholars have long been trying to fill. On pursuit of their dreams that may keep them overseas while fulfilling their passion to make a contribution to their homeland.

"I have met a lot of Filipino, Filipino-Americans in Harvard. Everyone had a great idea, a passion to contribute to the country. But they also have to face realities," said Alfredo Ishi. In 03, a law professor at the University of the Philippines who completed his master of laws at Harvard University.

"I thought, why does it have to be a choice all the time? Go back to the Philippines, forget your dreams, forget what you'll be able to help. It doesn't have to be a choice," said Melo, one of the center's founding members.

Easy point

The idea was hatched on a trip to Cape Cod in the northeastern last year when Melo

dinned four of technology that will stand as a point of national pride for into the future."

Primitive life

Over the next two years, Curiosity will drive now to a mountain rising from the crater floor, poke into rocks and scoop up soil, timed not to see if the explorer had the right environment for microscopic organisms to thrive.

It's the latest chapter in the long-running quest to find out whether primitive life arose early in the planet's history.

The voyage to Mars took more than eight months and spanned 566 million kilometers. The electric jeep-powered Mars' atmosphere at 20,921 kph—17 times the speed of sound—before starting its descent.

The trickiest part of the journey? The landing. Because Curiosity weighs nearly a ton, engineers determined up a new and more controlled way to set the rover down. The last Mars rovers, twins Spirit and Opportunity, were encased in air bags and bounced to a stop in 2004.

The plans for Curiosity called for a series of braking tricks, similar to those used by the space shuttle, and a supersonic parachute to slow it down. Next, ditch the heat shield used for the descent.

And in a new twist, engineers came up with a way to lower the rover with new Buck-like hovering rocket-powered backpack. At touchdown, the cords cut and the rocket stage crashed a distance away.

Scientific tools

The rocket-powered Curiosity, the size of a small car, is packed with scientific tools, cameras and a weather station.

It sports a robotic arm with a power drill, a laser that can zap distant rocks, a chemistry lab to sniff for the chemical building blocks of life and a detector to measure dangerous radiation on the surface.

It also studied radiation levels during the journey to help Nasa better understand the risks astronauts could face on a future manned trip.

Over the next several days, Curiosity is expected to send back the first color pictures. After several weeks of health checkups, the six-wheel rover could take its first short drive and first investigations.

Nasa will spend the first month shedding out Curiosity. The first drive could occur early next month.

The rover would not scoop its first sample of Martian soil until mid-September at the earliest, and the first drilling into rock would occur in October or November.

Fast water

The landing site near Mars' equator was picked because there are signs of past water everywhere, meeting one of the requirements for life as we know it.

Inside Gale Crater is a 5-km-high mountain, and images from space show the base appears rich in minerals that formed in the presence of water.

Previous trips to Mars have also entered on near the Martian north pole and evidence of water once flowed where the

Intellectual exchange

With the center, Angara said the scholars hope to facilitate an intellectual exchange never before seen in the Philippines.

In the halls of the center is John Yoo, an expert in some issues, and the economists who have been invited as consultant to Monroe Lucia Amores, Asian Development Bank and with President Aquino, his fourth mate at Ateneo de Manila University.

Speaking about the value of a neutral think tank in the country's often politically charged national discussion, Yoo said: "The kind of workshop will set the stage on how to frame the debate."

Another door the state of a neutral think tank in the country's often politically charged national discussion, Yoo said: "The kind of workshop will set the stage on how to frame the debate."

Another door the value

Across the NATION

Moro breakaway rebels stage simultaneous attacks; 3 dead

Peace talks won't be derailed, says Malacañang

DATU SAUDI, MAGUINDANAO—Avenging the loss of a comrade, Moro breakaway rebels simultaneously attacked Army detachments in seven towns in Maguindanao and North Cotabato shortly before Sunday midnight.

The strikes left a civilian and two rebels dead, four militiamen wounded, and thousands of civilians fleeing their homes.

Under cover of darkness, members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), which split from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), assaulted bases of the Army's 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade in Datu Unsay, Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang, Datu Saudi Ampatuan and Ampatuan towns in Maguindanao and in Barangay Kapinpilan, Midsayap town in North Cotabato.

An Army militia base in Pikit, also in North Cotabato, was similarly sieged.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu said a still unidentified motorist was killed in a crossfire along the highway in Datu Unsay.

Speaking for the BIFF, Abu Misry said over the radio that the attacks were meant "to retaliate [for] the death of our commander [Abu Turaifie] in the hands of the military." He identified the slain rebel only as Mohammad.

"It was not an offensive; it was only harassment," Misry said. "What we did was hit-and-run and no more."

He said Army soldiers were paid P400,224, a bounty BIFF men in the bunkers of Gulodbargan, Dulo Saudi and Tatia Unsay on June 23, which resulted in the death of Mohammad.

No civilian was killed in the "coordinated harassment against the military because we told our brothers and sisters to leave before we launch attacks," he said.

For al-Haq, MILF military spokesperson, told the reporters by phone that the BIFF offensives appeared to be "harassment attacks" because these targeted government troop positions.

"The attacks were 10 or 20 minutes apart from each other. Based on the radio intercept of the BIFF spokesperson, they want to avenge the killing of their commander and they point to an AFP soldier as the suspect," he added.

The BIFF also accused using of the Bangsamoro Islamic Liberation Movement (BIFM) led by Ameril Umra Kato, is composed of former MILF members who are not covered by the existing ceasefire agreement between the MILF and the government.

Kato is believed to be either dead or seriously ill after suffering a stroke in November last year. He formed the BIFF in 2010 due to political differences with top MILF leaders. By mid-2011, he formed the BIFM and was eventually expelled from the MILF.

Province of the Cotabato-Sultan Kudarat highway were closed to traffic while the military cleared the areas under attack, according to Col. Hilarindo dela Cruz, 1st Mechanized Brigade chief.

"We have no casualty, we anticipated their attacks because our intelligence units have already alerted all our troops in all detachments," Dela Cruz told the Inquirer. He said two of the attackers were killed in Datu Unsay.

Midsay Pelag, 39, a resident of Barangay Igbaragampong in Datu Unsay, said that three days before the offensive, the villagers were already told by their leaders to prepare for evacuation.

"We didn't believe because we were happy with the prevailing peace in our area and because today is fasting month [Ramadan]," Pelag said as she and several mothers waited for government assistance at an evacuation site near Crossing Salbu, Datu Saudi Ampatuan.

Pelag said she was praying that her house be spared and the family valuables remain intact.

Midsia Kawit, Maguindanao schools division superintendent, said the ordered school principals in Shariff Aguak, Ampatuan, Mamasapano, Datu Unsay and Datu Piang to suspend classes to ensure the safety of pupils.

"We also advised parents not to send their children to school and wait for further notice," Kawit said in a radio interview.

She said the teachers were told not to proceed to the schools for their safety.

Army Col. Jess Golido, commander of the 40th Infantry Battalion based in Ampatuan town in North Cotabato, said BIFF rebels fired rifle grenades at a militia base in Barangay Kapinpilan in Midsayap. No casualty was reported.

"The Muslim residents did not leave the villages despite advice from the [40th]," Golido said. They told the rebels 'to stop firing at the militia base and they ceased firing."

In Pikit, four militiamen were wounded when BIFF members fired _____-propelled grenades, Edwin Fernandez, Charlie G. Señase, Godfrey Mallowe and Ryan B. Romero, Inquirer Mindanao

RESIDENTS of Datu Unsay town in Maguindanao evacuate as Moro breakaway rebels launch attacks on military detachments. (STORY, PHOTO BY ALEJANDRO SERVALLOS)

THE LATEST attacks in Maguindanao and North Cotabato by Moro breakaway rebels will not derail peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Malacañang said yesterday.

Government and MILF negotiators will return to Kuala Lumpur today to further thrash out details of a peace deal that both parties have agreed to hammer out within the year.

Presidential adviser on the Peace Process Jesús Dureza condemned the "unprovoked and senseless attacks" on military installations by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM) identified with Ameril Umra Kato.

Dureza said the rebels were led by Datuks Carinhan, the BIFM chief of staff.

The station during Ramadan only demonstrated their disrespect for the Islamic holy month and disregard for innocent lives, she said in a statement read by presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda during a Palace briefing.

He said the government's "primordial consideration" is the safety of civilians who have been caught in the crossfire.

"This act of aggression of the BIFM is meant to derail the peace process between the government and the MILF," the statement said.

Chief MILF negotiator Mohagher Iqbal told the Inquirer by phone that both panels had readied a signed to hold two exploratory meetings this month in a bid to fast-track the negotiations.

During last month's meeting, the panels reached an agreement on the annexes on normalization and on the transitional modalities.

In their eventual joint statement, the panels said they were confident of "wrapping up discussions on normalization toward the realization of a new political entity ..."

In April, the parties agreed to replace the decommissioning bodies in Muslim Mindanao with a new autonomous political entity which has far greater economic and political powers consistent with the self-governance aspirations of the Bilaro people.

Senate Sen. Manuel Villar, Maguindanao governor Esmael Mangudadatu and the whole of the main power lines along the national highway in the province. "They are the electricity lines and destroyed the towers; power goes out in Cotabato, Davao ... Maguindanao," Villar said. Reports from Inquirer Luzon Desk and Marlon Ramos in Manila and Ryan B. Romero, Inquirer Mindanao

Reconsider law on child punishment, priest urges

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A Cebu-based priest has called on the Cebu City Council to reconsider an ordinance banning physical punishment of children.

Fr. Carmelo Diola said the ordinance passed on June 27 was "very extreme" and removes from parents the right and responsibility as the first disciplinarians of their children.

It also negates Filipino culture which accepts "moderate" forms of physical punishment, he said.

Diola, executive director of the Cebu-based Hijab Movement that aids former child prostitutes through the counseling of support groups, said he was expressing his personal stand on the issue.

The ordinance imposes a fine of P5,000 or imprisonment of more than six months, or both, depending on court discretion, to violators. It covers parents, relatives, teachers, nannies and housemaids, who inflict pain or even humiliate children by shaming their kids or verbally abusing them.

It also prohibits the hitting, pinching of ears, pulling of hair, slapping and kicking of a child and forcing the child to kneel.

Diola described the ordinance as problematic because it lumps together acts of abuse with acceptable forms of punishment on children.

"Every time an aggrieve child abuse and there's no defense is that. But we already have laws against that," he told the Inquirer in a phone interview on Sunday.

Philex gold mine suspended over spill

THE GOVERNMENT has indefinitely suspended the operations of the country's largest gold mine after a waste spillage onto a major river, officials said on Monday.

Philex Mining's Padcal (nail), as well remain closed until a government investigation determines the extent of the spill and why it happened, said Leo Jasareno, head of the government's Mines and Geosciences Board.

"It is currently suspended indefinitely," he said. MB adding the inquiry would last at least a week and examine whether any toxic substances had leaked in the mine, near the northern's mountain resort of Baguio.

There was a spill at the mine's tailings pond last week after the Philippines was battered by heavy rains from Typhoon "Gorio" (International code: Saola), ruining from the toxic substances could mute major waterways.

Government scientists have concluded the mine and its did not reach the Agno river and the nearby San Roque dam, one of the country's largest.

Philex Mining vice president Miss Yalada said the company stopped operations at the mine when it discovered the leak.

"We will not operate until such time that we are certain [the tailings pond] is okay," he said in a statement.

Philex had previously insisted the spillage occurred only of water and sediments, which were "nontoxic and biodegradable."

The accident came amid intense public debate about the mining industry in the Philippines, which is believed to have some of the biggest mineral reserves in the world.

However, the wealth remains largely untapped, partly because of a strong antimining movement, while poor infrastructure and security concerns have also kept investors away. AFP

SBMA replaces 2 officials linked to smuggling try

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chair Roberto Garcia has replaced the two officials linked to the smuggling attempt here while the investigation into their possible collusion in facilitating the shipment of 620,000 bags of Indian rice in this port is ongoing.

Rod John Rodriguez, head of the SBMA's planning and development office, will replace Bernard Bello, senior deputy administrator for business development, while Marcelino Escpiel, deputy administrator for public works and technical services, will take over the position left by Rodriguez. Ramon, senior deputy administrator for seaport operations.

Bello and Tanon have been on leave while the SBMA was during the investigation.

Garcia said the agency's investigating committee, headed by SBMA director Philip Carsten, has yet to decide if it will seek the National Bureau of Investigation's help in the probe that will last for about two weeks.

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) announced the seizure of the rice stocks on July 15 from a warehouse operated by Mono-Eastern Trading Corp., a port locator. The agency took the SBMA to task for the alleged attempt to smuggle the rice shipment into the country.

Andru C. Bondo, DEMC, owns the seized Indian rice, which was originally intended for Indonesia. Through its lawyers, Antas said it did not misdeclare the rice shipment supposedly on its arrival here and the rice stocks, worth at least P450 million, was not intended for unloading in the country.

It said MV Vindicate Mighty, the vessel carrying the shipment, had sailed to Subic Bay with the approval of the SBMA.

Tanon, in a press conference on Friday, said he was a victim of misrepresentation by Mono-Eastern and Antas.

When asked, Tanon said he was aware of the Bangsamoro Authority (BSA) regulation prohibiting the shipment of rice in to the country without an importation permit.

But he said they relied on the promise of the shipper that the NFA permit was being processed. Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon

PALAWAN received from Hong Kong rare and critically endangered Indian star tortoise and other animals highly prized in the illegal pet trade which were confiscated from a Chinese traveler recently.

Palawan gets grant to prevent turtle poaching

By Roberto E. Rosa
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Asian Development Bank has approved a P1-million grant to Palawan to help address massive turtle poaching and other illegal activities in the province's southernmost municipality of Balabac.

Gov. Abraham Kahlil Mitra, in a press conference on Thursday, said the grant facility aimed to provide alternative livelihood to communities to discourage poaching and other environmentally destructive activities.

Balabac has been frequently targeted by foreign poachers, mostly Chinese, seeking marine turtles. Environment enforcers involved in more recent operations to stop marine turtle poaching have observed that some members of local communities were working in cahoots with foreign poachers.

Also on Thursday, Palawan received from Hong Kong authorities a shipment of rare and critically endangered freshwater turtles and other animals highly prized in the black market pet trade which were confiscated from a travelling Chinese national the other week.

Among the cargo were 19 Philippine forest turtles, new species found only in Palawan, 19 Mindoro water monitors, 40 Asian box turtles and a critically endangered python.

While in previous years, Chinese nearby poachers have been arrested and detained in Palawan, recent cases showed a pattern where locals were exploiting the endangered marine turtles using capital and equipment provided by Chinese buyers.

"This point will help immensely those law enforcers and arrest those many from escaping (cases to engage in illegal activities," Mitra said.

He said the ADB and the Department of Foreign Affairs signed an agreement in July to implement the grant.

Balabac has also been cited by environmentalists for outrageous destruction, done mainly by defanging the trees for tan bark which are used as raw material for the manufacture of check dye and medicines.

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T. Lichao

LONDON OLYMPICS

BEIJING Welsh winnings of the US tries to keep the ball in play during the quarterfinal of women's beach-volley ball. The third seeded pair of Jennings and Misty May-Treanor beat Italy's Greta Cicolari and Marta Menegatti, 21-13, 21-13.

Del Prado handles Brunei's track hope

By Ted S. Melendrez

LONDON—The very substance of Bruneian dreams could just prove to be a force to heat our Asian Games athletes, thanks to a former Filipino 400-meter marvel.

Isidro del Prado, formerly one of Asia's finest athletes over the distance whose national record remains uneclipsed to this day in their Olympics as coach of young Bruneian ace who vied in Sunday's 800 heats.

Hafiz Basit failed to advance to the semifinals but his time of 48.57 seconds smashed his own Bruneian national record by more than five seconds.

"Brunei has been very kind to me," said the 53-year-old Del Prado in Filipino during a chat with a Philippine delegation official at Athletes' Village here.

Del Prado is now the third year of his contract with the Bruneian athletics federation as head coach of the country's 400 and 800m runners.

He ranked his name in the annals of PH athletics when he alternated with Japan's Susumu Takano as Asian number No. 1 in the 400 from 1962 to 1967. He lowered the 400m record to 46.48 seconds during the golden years of Project. Joining Ang a brainchild of the late President Marcos' nephew Michael Kent.

Del Prado, who reached the quarterfinals of the 1964 Los Angeles Olympics, also anchored the feared PH 4x400 quarter that also included Hussein Lacsi, Leopoldo Astillo and Romeo Golo which beat powerhouse Japan twice in the Asian championships.

Torres eyes top 12, PH record

By Ted S. Melendrez, Sports Editor

LONDON—Brimming with renewed confidence, Marestella Torres finally gets her chance at Olympic redemption when she competes with the world's best again in the women's long jump at the London Games here.

Torres, 31, plunges into action at 7 p.m. Monday (2 a.m. Tuesday in Manila) at the Olympic Stadium in finished seeking a new Philippine record and outright entry into the semifinals.

A leap that would better her own 6.71 meter PH mark (not 6.686 as previously reported by national athletics chief Go Teng Kok) is all she needs to become the first Filipina ever to leap into the next round of her event.

The two-time Olympian from San Jose, Negros Oriental, will set out as the 15th-ranked entry in a field of 32 that includes Maureen Higa Maggi, whose leap of 7.04m gained the gold for Brazil in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Incidentally, Maggi boasts a personal best of 7.20m.

Torres is one of the three Filipino representatives of an estimated 11-athlete contingent to these Games. Daniel Calvog roars to the seeding run of the 800E competition on Wednesday and 5,000-meter runner Irene Herrera closes out the gutted PH campaign on the eve of the Games' closing ceremonies on Saturday.

Already out of the Games are swimmers Jasmine Alkhaldi and Jessie Rhing Lacuna, skeet shooter Brian Rosario, archers Rachelle Anne Cabral and Mark Javier, lifter Hidilyn Diaz, judoka Kenshiko Hoshizu and boxer Mark Anthony Barriga.

Barriga was the only Filipino thus far to reach the second round, but fell late in a virtual wrestling match to a taller Bauhaus Shakypov of Kazakhstan, who advanced through a 2 point penalty assessed on Barriga by what a fuming Filipino official here described as a "blind and incompetent referee" from Cameroon.

"I've trained for this Olympics for so long. I know I will do good this time," said Torres to Filipinos. "The field is too strong but I will be there to do my best on her abdominal muscles, two key factors in the longer jumping events.

"When to carry increased issues in terms of jumping her weight—she's now down to 53 kilograms—and discipline. Because she watches what she eats, she's quicker now."

He said the night-time of Beijing has kept Torres very

TOKENS. Torres, the two-time Olympian from Negros Oriental, with a leap of 6.620m, the gapped Kazakh Anastasiya Bulkina now, (6.36), her top contender, Australian rival, in her hands and feet and attempt.

Torres also ruled a step-of the three-leg Asian Grand Prix in India with a 6.51m leap.

Torres said Herrera are not given much of a chance, and even to get past the preliminary rounds, but at least they get to see how to use the London Games' biggest stage, the 80,000-seat Olympic Stadium.

"We haven't lost hope yet. At least we're still fighting on these fronts," Lopez said. The last time a PH athletes went up the Olympic podium was when boxer Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco Jr. won a silver in Atlanta in 1996.

Winning medals has not been small of a problem for other Southeast Asian countries, though.

Indonesia's silver here came from weightlifter Triyatno Triyatno, who came back from a bad match to earn 158 kilograms in the clean and jerk for a total of 333 kg. Romania's Razvan Constantin Martin settled for bronze with 332 while China's Lu Qingfeng took the gold with a 344 total.

The second place finish in the 69 kg class was an improvement of the Indonesian's bronze medal finish in the 62kg division in Beijing in 2008, which was Indonesia's first weightlifting medal in 64 years.

Indonesia's other medal attempt, at the same time, was in weightlifting in the 62kg division as Eni Irawan Eni Yuli gained a total of 217 kg. He was tied at that total with Dicas Alberto Figueroa Mosquera of Colombia, but the Colombian was the silver on the basis of his 177 kg effort in the clean and jerk, which was an Olympic record.

Malaysia, which has a total of less silver and two bronze medals in the Olympics, came tantalizingly close on Sunday evening, its first medal in 12 appearances in the Olympics when Lee Chong Wei battled China's Lin Dan in the men's badminton finals.

Lee took the first set, 21-15, but lost the second, 10-21. He was leading, 19-18, in the third set and was two points away from the title when the Chinese was three points in a row to snatch the gold.

The 30-year old eight-hander had been the losing singles finalist in he last Beijing Olympics in 2008 and the 2011 world championship in London.

Thailand, the most formidable Southeast Asian country in the Olympics having won a total of 21 medals, including 7 golds, since it joined the Olympics in Helsinki in 1952, also won silver here.

Pivasiri Sirikaew was second in the women's 58kg in weightlifting with a 236-kg total, behind China's Li Xueying, who set Olympic records in the snatch (108 kg) and the total (246 kg).

Thailand's seven gold medals in the Olympics have all come from boxing (3) and women's weightlifting (3).

Singapore's bronze was courtesy of China born Feng Tianwei in women's singles in table tennis.

Murray bags gold; Chinese shuttlers rule all five events

WIMBLEDON, England—Andy Murray stood with the Union Jack draped over his shoulders, an Olympic gold medal around his neck, a new-found love for Britain's fans, Roger Federer, and banking on the ease of the Centre Court crowd.

No wonder the often dour Scotsman was grinning.

Murray won one for the home-team fans, beating Federer 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 in the men's final at Wimbledon.

The victory marked a career breakthrough for Murray. He has lost all four of his Grand Slam finals, three against Federer, including Wimbledon a month ago.

"It has been the best week of my tennis career by a mile," he said. "I've had a lot of tough losses. This is the first time I've come back from the Wimbledon final. I'll never forget it."

For Federer, the doubling marked much as Olympic disappointment. Playing in the games for the fourth time, he sought a victory to complete a career Golden Slam but settled for silver—his first singles medal.

"Don't feel too bad for me," Federer said. "I felt like I won my silver, I didn't lose it. So I feel really happy."

Chinese dominance

Meanwhile, badminton great Lin Dan led China's sweep of all five badminton gold medals.

After winning the men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles at the last two world championships, China became the first team to do it in the Olympics.

The entire team and coaches celebrated in Wembley Arena after most of the stiffest remaining fans. They then posted for group photos on the podium. AP

PH's 4 Southeast Asian rivals land in medal table

By Armando T. Engracia Jr.

LONDON—While the luckless Philippine delegation continues to flounder in the tough Olympic waters, four of its Southeast Asian neighbors have managed to sail into the medal standings halfway through the 2012 Olympic Games here.

Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and even Singapore have won at least a medal each going into the final week of the Games.

Indonesia has collected two medals—a silver and a bronze—while Malaysia and Thailand have a silver each and Singapore has one bronze.

"It is not fair yet," said Manny Lopez, the chief of mission who is using PLDT Infinity as the competition BMX rider Daniel Caluag.

Following Mark Anthony Barriga's controversial loss to light flyweight boxing on Saturday, only two other Filipinos are left in the Games. They are Mansueña Torres in long jump and Irene Herrera in the 5,000 meters.

Torres and Herrera are not given much of a chance, not even to get past the preliminary rounds, but at least they get to see how to use the London Games' biggest stage, the 80,000-seat Olympic Stadium.

"We haven't lost hope yet. At least we're still fighting on these fronts," Lopez said. The last time a PH athletes went up the Olympic podium was when boxer Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco Jr. won a silver in Atlanta in 1996.

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Fantastic, says Caluag of BMX track

By Ted S. Melendrez

LONDON—Daniel Caluag finally took in the Olympic seven track that will host cycling's BMX competition at the London Olympics here Wednesday. And he liked what he saw.

"Oh, it's fantastic," the 22-year-old Filipino-American rider said Sunday night after organizers briefly opened the track to the select 32 racers in the event. "It has a unique character. It will be fun on there."

Caluag, accompanied by his wife and mechanic Stephanie and coach James Richardson, walked through the BMX venue inside the Olympic Park, a 450-meter dirt track featuring an eight-meter down ramp, thirty corners and an 8-hand mounds.

The son of physicians from Bulacan and Ilocos Sur and the United States was barred him in May from training with its riders in Chula Vista, California, where the Americans had built its exact copy of the London track. The local-last week accused the Australians of "course espionage" for stealing the course design.

Caluag, the four time No. 1 pro in the US, said he became the majority of the starting field but to not intimidated.

"They're practically the same people whom I've competed with," he said.

Heading the list of favorites in cycling's most exhilarating event is Australian Sara Willoughby, the world No. 1 who topped the Birmingham world championships in June and he flows consecutive years

CALUAG. Re-introduced

from 2008 was the World Cup champion. Then there is defending Olympic champion Maris Strombergs of Latvia.

"I'd like to enjoy the moment and compete at the same time," said Caluag, the only Asian in the competition.

It's Nishioka for Donaire's Oct. 13 title defense

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT WILL be the Japanese legend, not the Mexican warrior, who gets to face the Filipino Flash.

WBC and IBF super bantamweight champ Nonito Donaire Jr., yesterday confirmed via manager Leonardo Ang sites that he will make both titles against Yudukin Nishioka instead of Jorge Arce on Oct. 13 at the Home Depot Center in Carson, California.

Arce, the flashy 34-year-old Mexican, reportedly balked in reach an agreement with his guaranteed pay-per-money with Top Rank. In a previous interview, Donaire's manager Cameron Dunkin said that if Donaire and Arce get in the ring, the Filipino must get the bigger purse.

Both Arce and Nishioka have no current titles but either of them would provide one purse in the fight which will serve as co-mainer to the Mike Alvarado-Brandon Rios fight.

Donaire, who is on vacation in the country to film a Vitaysa movie, posted over Facebook and Twitter his decision to face the 35-year-old Nishioka, the former WBC super bantam champion who was a struggle in two of the Filipino's last three matches.

But hardcore fight fans say that the bout may lack the "bad blood" angle that a fight with Arce could provide considering the long-standing rivalry between Filipino and Mexican fighters.

Donaire declined Omar Narvaez, Wilfredo Vazquez Jr., and Jeffrey Mathebula in his last three outings.

Highly respected in his home country and also regarded worldwide for being crafty and seductive on the ring, the Tokyo-based Nishioka is a southpaw who has not lost a fight in eight years and holds a 39-4-3 record with 24 knockouts.

Donaire is 29-1-1 with 18 KOs.

Experts say the 5-foot-6 ½ Nishioka is now past his prime and could not match up with the firepower of the 29-year-old Bonsave who is on the peak of his career.

Nishioka entered the WBC belt after a unanimous decision win over Rafael Marquez last October. But he has not fought since then, vacating the crown that eventually went to Abner Mares when he beat Eric Morel last April.

3 Filipino athletes remain optimistic

THE COUNTRY'S hopes of attaining Olympic glory rest on the shoulders of three athletes who will all display their prowess on Aug. 8.

At 2 a.m. (Manila time), coach Marianello Torres ties an ASTV on DIC13 and AksysTV as the participants in the preliminary round of the long jump competition. Torres hopes to beat her personal record to be able to secure a podium position.

Hidilyn Diaz is a weightlifter. Rose Dorren will be racing in the preliminaries of the 5,000m event starting at 5:45 p.m. on ABTE Herrera is out to prove that he can conquer the world athletics stage once strong gentle at a time.

BMX cyclist Daniel Caluag will also get to see action on the new Olympic stadium track this Wednesday. ASTV will air his race starting at 10:45 p.m.

Folayang, Belingon eye redemption

By Cedell F. Tupas

FILIPINO fighters Eduard Folayang and Kevin Belingon seek redemption when they collide against foreign rivals in the ONE Fighting Championship's PRide of the Nation fight card on Aug. 31 at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Coming off losses last March, the Baguio-based fighters hope for a better ending this time to what is considered the biggest Mixed Martial Arts fight card yet to be held in the country.

Folayang, a four-time Asian Games wushu champion, faces Japanese Shilpe Kusuma in a three-main-event, while Belingon clashes with South Korean Soo Chol-Hai. Squaring off in the main event are Brazilian Ibhrahim Fernandes and Australian Dameca Pedroli in a bantamweight fight.

ONE FC CEO Victor Cui expects an explosive card with the two Filipinos going all out in front of their countrymen and a bevy of international stars aching to strut their stuff in the country.

"It's going to be explosive," said Cui. "Both [Folayang and Belingon] are fantastic representatives of the sport and are two of the hardest working fighters I've known."

The company, which drew millions of viewers in their eight previous events in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, among others, says the Philippines as a massive market for MMA.

"This is the best card we've ever done," said Cui, referring to the Pride of the Nation event. "It's probably the best fight card to be held in Asia. We know that the Philippines is already conquered to the rest of Asia in terms of appreciating the sport."

Folayang, who has evolved into a more calculating and wily fighter while plying his trade abroad in the past two years, said it is imperative for him to put up a good performance against Fiamonte.

"I want to create history," said Folayang, who still holds the ONE welterweight title and lost to Ole Laursen via decision in his last fight.

Cui said the Dimmon clash is a "big fight" for Belingon considering that they will be putting a world championship belt on the line in his weight category in the near future.

"Edward needs to be on the radar that's why this fight is important to him," said Cui.

The 24-year-old Belingon is aiming to bounce back after losing via submission to Montreal lemurat-of-Japan in his last fight.

"I've been preparing hard for this fight," said Belingon. "We want to win for the Philippines."

KIAWAN or Shine players and coaching staff celebrate with team owners Raymund Yu and Terry Que, their fans and supporters after winning the PBA Governors' Cup crown Sunday night. MIKE DE CASTRO

First for Rain or Shine

Coach Guiao prevails in mind game over Cone

By Marong R. Castillo

AFTER a six-year wait, Rain or Shine finally became a PBA champion Sunday night, using the mind game, through coach Yeng Guiao, to its biggest weapon against a foe many thought was unconquerable.

"I thought that the only advantage we had was we probably got into their heads," Guiao said earlier in the din of the celebration mounting the long overdue finale through of Rain or Shine as a PBA member.

Guiao said he believed B-Meg couldn't take the physical pounding of the series, even though the Llamados themselves announced in their statements that they were heading into the best-of-seven title series as the tough guys.

The firebrand coach also pointed to the fact that it was his counterpart, Tim Cone, who literally asked time-out-of-time for help after just one game.

By that time, Guiao said he knew where they were hurting the Llamados, literally and figuratively.

"I took advantage of that, rubbed it in [mind of B-Meg] and gave our guys some confidence at that point," he said, referring to Cone's post-Game 1 plea to the referees that contact with Game rolling the world that his Painted nephews doesn't owns from just their shirts.

And then there was the "we will still win this series with or without Fred Lee" statement which was interpreted by the Governors' Cup title.

"They (Llamados) had more talent than we did," Guiao, who also won titles with Swift, Top Coat and Red Bull, continued. "We played it psychologically."

Rain or Shine completed a 4-0 sweep over Barrel B-Meg with a Game 7 victory on Sunday, a series that is announced coming even through he lost Lee, the team's top rebounder and his best local player, to an injury in the waning minutes of Game 2.

GUIAO

Leading the ranks of Bobo Dalupan, Boyet Mabanag and Chot Reyes in the only coaches to win championships with three different teams.

Dalupan did it with Crispa, Great Taste and Pocolbooch; Mabanag won with U-Tex, Royal Tru-Orange and Crispa and Reyes won with Gilas-Cola, Sea Migard and Talk N Text.

Cone's Gilas Pilipinas also the series with averages of almost 12 points and three rebounds in 32 minutes, was also a huge winner individually after being unanimously chosen as the Gimbo-PBA Press Corps' Finals MVP that went with the season's Most Improved Player award he won before Game 6.

Rain or Shine also became the first team in league history to win a championship in a Game 7 in its first try in the present becoming just the fourth franchise to nail a title in its maiden Finals appearance.

One of those teams, Red Bull in the 2005 Governors Cup, was also handled by Guiao.

The rubber match that drew a crowd of almost 20,000 featured a popular cast of Guiao and the birth of several stars who are expected to carve their niches in the league in the years to come.

Rain or Shine is also expected to contend for many more championships in the future, but right now, the most important thing for Raymund Yu, who oversees the team with Terry Que, was the fact that some Guiao and his boys gave his word.

"Thank you for giving this team an identity [as a champion]," Yu told Guiao after the awarding ceremony.

Huey, pal cop doubles title

TRIXIE HUEY and British partner Dominic Ingle completed their magical run by outlasting Kevin Anderson of South Africa and Ross Quarmby of United States, 7-6 (9-7), 6-7 (11-9), 10-5, Sunday to capture the men's doubles championship of the Citi Open tennis championships in Washington D.C.

Huey and Ingle exploited their long partnership to take the two-hour match over their opponents who entered their as duplex but are accustomed while playing together.

They split the $74,800 top-purse while picking up rankings points that lifted Huey from 47th in the world to 38th, the highest social to get jumped from 39th to 32nd in the world.

Huey, who is set to represent the Philippines in the Davis Cup Group 2 promotional tie against Indonesia next month, captured his first ATP World Tour championship after taking eight titles last year in Challenger tournaments.

The unstripped 26-year old reached their first career with different partners.

Huey and Ingle downed fellow University of Virginia alumni Dave Courtney and Steve Johnson 6-4, 6-4 Saturday in the semifinals.

"It's a great experience to come here and play the tournament. I grew up watching this as a little kid. Dave and I had a big week. It's always more fun when you win on that [celebrity] helps," said Huey, who was born in Washington D.C. on a Filipino mother, in an interview for the Citi Open website.

Huey and Ingle have actually won four Challenger-level title together since 2010, but they earlier lost in Quarry, who teamed up then with fellow American Jason Blake.

Marc Anthony Reyes

HOUSE Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Bagong Henerasyon (BH) Party-List Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy congratulate the PCSO-Mandaluyong-Bagong Henerasyon Philippine Marines Team for bagging 18 gold medals in the Thailand International Open Marines championship.

No review on non-call; Parks shines

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines will just have to move on from another painful loss as the non-call on the goaltending violation in its overtime game Tuesman be a basis for review," a UAAP official said yesterday.

The reddish Maroons—who lost four of their five games by just an average of three points—had been incensed by the non-call in their 4th setback in Fur Seasons University, 77-70, last Sunday.

A video replay in the arena showed that the hitsuk of FEU's Anthony Hargrove on UP's Oliver Dipchin was a goaltending violation, but remembered An Badolato said yesterday that such calls cannot be overturned.

The incident occurred with the Maroons trailing, 66-70, with just three minutes to go.

"Goaltending [and other judgment calls] cannot be reviewed so he's a basis for a protest," said Badolato.

UP coach Ricky Dandan said the non-call reminded him of the Maroons' heartbreaking loss to Adamson last week, 59-67, where a non-call on a charging foul by Adamson's Jericho Cruz in the dwindling seconds led to Rodney Brondial's game-winner.

"I talked to [Badolato] immediately after the game, he said that we do not have rules on reversing a goaltending violation," said Dandan. "We are all very disappointed because this is the second time that we were denied an opportunity to win."

The Maroons will try to end their five-game losing skid against another winless squad in the University of the East on Saturday.

Meanwhile, National University star Jiro Parks bagged the UAAP Press Corps Player of the Week award after leading the Bulldogs to their first back-to-back wins this season.

Parks, last season's Most Valuable Player, is again among the early candidates for the top individual plum after leading the league in points (16.3 ppg) and assists (5.3 apg) in six games.

"You're only as good as your last game so you always have to maintain the cream," said Parks.

Starting in the clutch, Parks shot 17 points when the Bulldogs stomped Far Eastern University's tribunate two with a 61-57 upset last Thursday.

PARK also collected 12 points, 11 rebounds and five assists in the Bulldogs' 77-62 throttling of Adamson last Sunday to clinch the weekly citation given by sports writers covering the collegiate loop and Accel MVP.

In another development, the league released a revised tournament schedule where game days will be set on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday for the next two weeks due to venue availability.

Cards shock Stags; Chiefs clobber Altas

JET Vidal (right) of Perpetual Help barrels into Jones Forrester of Arellano.

By Cedrik F. Tupaz

ROGERS John Pinto provided the Reds of inspiration as freshmen changed Perpetual Help, 63-54, last night to snap a two-game slide in the 88th NCAA basketball tournament at Filoil Flying V Arena.

Picking up the slack as his teammates continued to struggle, the sturdy guard from Davao pumped in 15 points, grabbed a career-high 13 rebounds and clinked on six assists as the Chiefs improved to 5-5.

Lanny a shorthanded Stingers squad composed of San Sebastian, 6-3-4, to complete a day of squeeze.

The Cardinals, missing three key reserves, hung on in the face of a furious Stags run in the last three minutes to arrive a three-game tailspin.

Jones Flores and Mike Nuesis delivered the baskets that gave the Cardinals enough cushion to stave off a last surge by the Stags, who are a 14-point deficit to lose with 30 seconds remaining.

It was San Sebastian's first loss after six consecutive wins and the Stags' second overall, crossing their opening-day foe to Letran.

More than his scoring, it was Pinto's hustle that helped propel the Chiefs, who outscored the Altas, 19-4, in the last five minutes, to pull off the upset.

"Coach [Koy Banal] wants me to step up because some of my teammates are injured," said Pinto, a homebrew from Holy Cross Davao. "We want to end the first round strong."

The Chiefs' every also looked to lift the spirits of Banal, who is coach Tim Cone's lead assistant in the 18-time team that lost Game 7 of the PBA Governors Cup to Rain or Shine barely 24 hours before the game.

"I'm happy the players responded to the challenge," said Banal. "At the very least, I had hopes [after the Game 7 loss]."

The loss snapped a two-game winning run for the Altas, who ended the first round with a 6-3 card.

The Altas came into the game with a reputation as a tough team to put away down the stretch, having won three games under three points.

The Game Scores
First Game
ARELLANO (68)—Pinto 15, Espinol 9, Dolosa 8, Dolorfino 6, Bolde 5, Hernandez 4, Salcedo 4, Mangoy 2, Jumao-as 0
PERPETUAL HELP (54)—Salazar 13, Dial 12, Tenorio 8, Abalos 3, Gonzaga 3, Alba 2, Rojo 2, Nuñez 2, Laurgan 0, Sison 0.
Quarters: 16-12, 33-27, 45-41, 63-54

Ironman biker dies of embolism

By Nicole Azuela
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—An autopsy done on the biker who died on Sunday during the bike leg of the relay race of the Cobra Energy Drink Ironman 70.3 Philippines showed that he died of natural causes.

The autopsy on Ramon Ignito Jr., 44, showed that acute pulmonary embolism was the cause of his death. It was believed to have caused Ignito to fall off his bike during the Ironman 70.3 held last Sunday in Cebu.

The autopsy performed by Dr. Ruth Gina Saavedra-Pesa and Dr. Theodore Damasco revealed the presence of several blood clots in Ignito's lungs. The family of Ignito requested an autopsy to determine the cause of his death.

Dr. Pesa told the Inquirer that death from acute pulmonary embolism could happen swiftly and without warning, as in the case of Ignito.

Ignito, 44, is the WHERE website (http://www.ohhi.ph.gov), preliminary exhibition is the sudden blockage of a major blood vessel (artery) in the lung, usually by a blood clot (thrombus). If a blood clot is huge, or if there are many clots, pulmonary embolism can cause death.

Ignito died from his bike in Barangay Pulilan(?) Consolacion, Talisay City at around 9 a.m. However, his wife, Dr. Hendley Ignito, did not know about the incident until hours later. She was waiting at the race transition area at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort, since she was scheduled to do the run at the relay.

Witnesses told reporters earlier that Ignito was wobbling on his bike shortly before he fell to the ground. He was brought to the Chong Hua Hospital in Cebu City where he was declared dead on arrival.

Dr. Ignito recalled that she saw no signs something was wrong with her husband prior to the start of the Ironman last Sunday morning.

An announcement before the start of the race at Shangri-La Mactan, Ignito and Dr. Hendley were seen having fun, excited over their first ironman.

In an interview over radio station dyAK, Hendley said that her gold was honored knowing that Ramon died doing what he loved.

"Biking is his passion even when he was single. That's what he really loved to do. When he ran at marathons, he also ran fast and did not slow down," she said.

The widow disclosed that she has yet to shed tears over her husband's death because she "has to be strong" for their daughter Nina.

SPORTSWATCH

Rain or Shine at PSA Forum

THE PSA Forum resumes its weekly session today with the newly crowned PBA Governors Cup champion Rain or Shine as special guests at Shakey's (3/F) Eastwood Mall.

Assistant coach Gabby Garcia will accompany players and other members of the Elasto Painters team in the 10:30 a.m. session that was put off for the past two weeks to give way to the coverage of the 2012 London Olympics.

Rain or Shine is fresh from bagging its second crown overall after beating Talk 'N Text in seven games, including a 103-91 win in Wednesday's decisive Game 7 of the title series.

Rexona Run registrations

REGISTRATIONS for the Rexona Run 2012 will be accepted until Aug. 18 at Rexona stores in Greenhills (Ortigas Ave.) and Alabang (Filinvest Ave.).

The run's 5-kilometer is for ranges at P700, P900 (Team members) and P600 for the 5K, 21K Relay and 21K Solo category.

The top 3 finishers in the 21K Solo take home P7,000, 5,000, and 4,000, while P5,000, 3,000, and 2,000 will be awarded to each member of the top finishers in the 21K relay division. The top 5K finisher gets P4,000.

Commemorative finisher's shirts will be given to finishers who post the race on or before the race's extended finishing time.

SM ice skating anniversary

SM Ice Skating, in celebration of its 20th year of serving the city's skating enthusiasts in the country, and Nissan present "Ice Chalk: Ice Cool Wheels."

The anniversary promo, which will run until Oct. 31, will give customers a chance to win a brand-new Nissan Grand Livina Highway Star 1.8-liter engine, which will make skating the ice rink at SM Mall of Asia and SM Southmall much more exciting and rewarding.

Race 2 —(2)(10)—Golden Star (7) Ilo (1) Miyamic Queen (3) Real Equal Speed (5)
Race 3 —(7)(8)(10)—Sweet Lady Jane (7) Ilo (1) Great Of Steel (3) Great Queen (5) Sing A Song (2) Kobe's Magic (8) Miracle Ice Queen (9)
Race 4 —(1)(2)(3)—Lucky Star (1) Ilo (2) Sweetheart (3) Mangatong Kid (5)
Race 5 —(Scratch)(1)(2)—Grand Marshall (1) Superstar Mahoney (2) Not For Hire (3) Only Child (5) Dream Maker (7)
Race 6 —(2)(3)(5)—Cash 'n Play (2) Lucky Lester (3) Ice Breaker (5) Miracle (7)
Race 7 —(1)(2)(3)—Ice Prince (1) Ice Queen Forever Courageous (2) Brave Soldier (3) Twenty Kilos (5) Ice Cool Contender (6) Ice Angelito (7) Color My World (8)

Race 8 —(1)(2)(3)—Ice Princess (1) Ice Queen Elizabeth (2) Ice Cool Cinderella (3) Ice Cool Princess (5) Ice Cool Contender (6) Ice Angelito (7) Color My World (8)

Race 9 —(1)(2)(3)—Ice Princess (1) Ice Queen Elizabeth (2) Ice Cool Cinderella (3) Ice Cool Princess (5) Ice Cool Contender (6) Ice Angelito (7) Color My World (8)

Race 10 —(1)(2)(3)—Ice Princess (1) Ice Queen Elizabeth (2) Ice Cool Cinderella (3) Ice Cool Princess (5) Ice Cool Contender (6) Ice Angelito (7) Color My World (8)

Dark Empire in boxing lives on

BARE EYE
Ricardo Fernandez

IT was, in most fields in London, higher, faster and stronger.

But, in the boxing ring, it was definitely distinct.

Mark Anthony Barrign won his boxing match on Saturday next and close, but the referee stopped the ring warrior in his sensational Olympic quest by helping push the gutsy Pinoy bullpup downpour-knockout loss.

He did not take no actual hand in grappling and toppling Barrign, his referee Roland Labbe of Canada lacked his foul intent by penalizing the tightboxed Pinoy kid after he was shoved down hard in the final minute of the third round.

"The Kazakh was leaning on the back of Barrign's head with all his weight when the referee shockingly penalized the Filipino supposedly for ducking," reported boxing hyper-critic Ted Melencion.

Majority of these rules watched the bout on television in Manila were aghast at the anomaly.

It was bad enough that the bigger Ibrahim Zhakypov of Kazakhstan, a grizzled veteran, had manhandled the boyish Barrign in the second round, grabbing and shoving the tiny boxer like a toy teddy bear, with no visible concern on the part of the referee.

Of course, it was all in Barrign's credit that, after falling behind in the first round, he still managed to come up and take the second round from the befuddled but bullying Kazakh through sharp, gutsy boxing.

Barrign had indeed looked beautiful in his second win, after the previous mastery of a tall Indian foe, as he took the second round, 6-3, until the methereal Kazakh decided to resort to full-scale wrestling.

No self-respecting expert or spectator would agree with the official verdict, rendered following a Philippine protest, that there had been nothing untoward behind Barrign's 17-15 setback.

A protest, lodged by Amateur Boxing of the Philippines executive director Ed Picson on the instruction of then president Ricky Vargas, was accurately dismissed by the international amateur boxing body AIBA.

Without bothering to do a review, the Aiba ruled out the Philippine protest "as erroneous and subjective."

It was, however, noted that the Aiba complaint was not different from the one previously lodged by the 111 boxing team.

In that case, two Nigerian fighters and an American, the 13-11 result in favor of Krishan Khan was overturned and awarded to Errol Spence, 13-13, after it was determined that the referee failed to give at least two warnings to the Indian (equal to four points).

The Aiba could not help but cry discrimination.

As things stand, it would appear that the Aiba, under a new Taiwanese president, has not honestly broken away from the dark ways of the previous regime, also famous as the Dark Empire, under the leadership of the abominable Anwar Chowdry of Pakistan.

The Aiba had all the right to protest and protect the interest of the young Barrign.

But, at the same time, it should wake up to reality and take care not to hand the dark suggestions of the unchristened Barrign to his trainer-handler and proceed to the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016.

Sharp, gutsy and great as he is, Barrign should not be made to end in another harsh, foul way that he was not basically cut out for the tall Olympic task.

His star is sure to shine in next year's Myanmar Southeast Asian Games.

Resuello posts double-title feat

RESUELLO

ROGERS CITY—Ronald Resuello of Kawasaki Racing Team-Gerard Shoulder proved he's the biggest star in the new era of Philippine Motorcycle Racing following another double-title feat recently in the fourth leg of the 2012 Bridgestone Philippine Superbikes Championships at Clark International Speedway here.

The 21-year-old Resuello dominated the unique four-race meet to finish a repeat both the Superbike Expert Open and the Superbike Intermediate crowns of the event sanctioned by Superbike Racing Association with Bridgestone as official tires.

Posting the fastest 2:04.149 in the qualifying time trials, he managed to improve it further to 2:03.845 on the fifth lap to pull away and complete the 20-lap race on a full 42 km-trek in 33 minutes and 57.379 seconds, 4.382 seconds ahead of second runner-up Marvin Mangalindan.

CEU, DLSZ prevail in WNCAA opener

DEFENDING champion Centro Escolar University and De La Salle Zobel buried their respective rivals to jump-start their title-retention campaigns on a high note in the 42nd WNCAA over the weekend.

CEU stomped Philippine Women's U, 81-33, on Saturday at the Philippine Arena in Bocaue, Bulacan, St. Scholastica's College nipped University of Asia and the Pacific, 64-63, after the colorful opening rites prepared by host DRAT.

In the continuation of basketball matches the following day at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong, San Beda College Alabang joined the season winners with a 86-38 thumping of returning Assumption while Emilio Aguinaldo College swapped La Consolacion College Manila, 45-34.

DLSZ, the defending eighteen champion, waylaid St. Stephen's High School, 35-8, in the event being supported by Goody Milano, Molten, MPC Photography, network partner AETV and radio partner Monster Radio RX 93.1.

In women's volleyball on Sunday at the St. Scholastica's gym in Manila, CEU also prevailed over St. Scholastica, 26-28, 25-23, 32-30, 25-9, 15-13, while retaining its Foresight crown were UNEP over La Consolacion, 25-19, 25-15, 25-18; PWU against SWC, 25-7, 25-15, 25-20; and Mapúa College versus Assumption, 25-12, 25-16, 25-14.

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The Empire East Dito

Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

THE PUBLIC Attorney's Office which provides free legal assistance to indigents rendered over 5.8 million clients in 2011, according to its latest accomplishment report. The PAO, which has its central office in Quezon City, handled over 680,000 cases during that period. —Zaldy Dandoy, Inquirer Research

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF RAIN SHOWERS
Dark clouds may be hovering in the horizon but a woman has eyes only for her daughter as they bond at a park in Quezon City. MICHAEL VARCAS

Vendors in Baclaran defy ban on toxic skin creams

By Nitz Calleja

SOME skin whitening creams which were banned for their high mercury content a year ago by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continue to be sold in flea markets in the Baclaran area, according to an environmental group.

EcoWaste Coalition aired the warning in an e-mailed statement yesterday after it made another round of surveys on Aug. 4 to find out if FDA Advisory 2011-012—which was issued exactly a year ago—was being enforced.

The government agency had ordered the recall of 30 brands of skin lightening products after tests showed that these contained amounts of mercury beyond the "allowable limit" of one part per million (ppm).

It had also banned their sale and importation under Republic Act No. 9711 or the FDA Act of 2009.

As a result, EcoWaste said it was surprised when its members found out that the products were still being sold in the market at prices ranging from P70 to P320.

"We call on our food and drug regulators, together with the city governments of Pasalagan and Pasay, to flex some muscle, confiscate the contraband goods and file charges against selling stores and their proprietors," said Aileen Lucero, the group's anti-cosmetics campaigner.

On Saturday, the group went to Baclaran and bought six of the P320 banned products. It also bought four other whitening products that had "incomplete and dubious" information on their labels.

"These deceivingly unhealthy products bragged about their herbal or natural contents such as garlic, gingko biloba and ginseng but none listed mercury as an ingredient," Lucero said.

After a mercury analysis on

BACLARAN VENDORS, A 22

'Habal-habal' driver's daily habit pays off to the tune of ₱4.5M

By Nitz Calleja

THE PERSISTENCE of a "habal-habal" driver from South Cotabato finally paid off after he hit the ₱4.5 million jackpot in a Super Lotto 6/49 draw held last month.

The 28-year-old retiree—a regular Lotto bettor for the past five years—claimed his prize from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) yesterday.

"I never bet a day pass by without placing a bet," he told PCSO General Manager Ferdinand Rosas II who handed the check for ₱4.5 million to him.

In fact, the habal-habal became so deeply ingrained in the fabric of his life that even while on vacation in Cebu City on July 27, he took the time to go to a Lotto outlet.

By some happy coincidence, the numbers he picked for that day (13-08-14-39-23-12) won the jackpot.

The numbers were a combination of his loved ones' birth dates and ages.

Joseph Mogas, PCSO media officer, said the winner had told Rosas that he would use the money to buy more motorcycles and put up his own habal-habal business. He added that he would set aside some of his winnings for his children's education.

"From a habal-habal driver, he will now be an operator. That's what the lotto jackpot can do," Mogas said.

The habal-habal is a common mode of public transportation in remote rural areas. Motorcycles are fitted with contraptions, including wooden planks on which people can sit, so that more passengers can be accommodated.

Quezon City cops seize 3 stolen vehicles sold online

By Julie H. Aurelio

THE POLICE have warned consumers to be more cautious when buying reduced vehicles after three motorcycles being sold online were found to have been stolen, authorities said.

One of these, a blue 1999 Honda Click with motor plate UG, 845, was recovered last Tuesday after its owner, Rolando Ta, saw it being advertised on AyosDito.com and immediately reported the matter to authorities.

According to Ta, the vehicle was hardwood by a friend who never returned it. When his friend passed away, Ta had the car placed in the field under the of the Philippine National Police's Highway Patrol Group (HPG).

The police investigator added that his unit also recovered two stolen motorcycles which were being advertised on thrift.com.

The people selling the vehicles were subsequently charged with violating Republic Act No. 1613 or the Anti-Fencing Law, even though they claimed that they merely bought the motorcycles from other people.

In Ta's case, the police found his car to the man who had posted the advertisement.

The seller, however, told investigators that he had bought the vehicle from another man, who had a genuine original receipt and certificate of registration issued by the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

Tobia, meanwhile, reminded car buyers to first verify the documents being presented by the vendor with the LTO.

At the same time, they should check the vehicle's license plate number, engine and chassis numbers with the HPG record section, to see if it is included in the list of stolen vehicles, he said.

MetroBriefs

2 men caught red-handed with stolen cell phone

TWO MEN in pedicabs pulled over early, last Thursday were caught while trying to escape from their victim in Navotas City early yesterday. Police identified the suspects as Marlon Bautista Salazar, 30, and Jerry Bugtalan and Mike Bacsal who were running away with a cell phone they had taken from a man who was walking home in Barangay North Bay Boulevard South (NBBS). Police reports said that the victim, identified as King Philip Sarcia, 31, a resident of Barangay Longos, Malabon, was walking on Gomez Street in Agora, NBBS, at 4:30 a.m. yesterday when Espiritu and Bacsal came upon him and demanded his cellular phone. The two took the victim's cell phone and a flat knife about 7 inches long. The NPD said he charged them with robbery and illegal possession of a bladed weapon in the Navotas Prosecutor's Office.

Ephraim B. Mirkan

Group conducts waste management seminar

THE MALCOMES Lagro Barangay, one of the recognized organizations at the Adamson University's College of Law, has conducted an orientation-seminar on Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) at Bagumbayan Elementary School in Muntinlupa City. The orientation-seminar was organized in line with the school's leadership training with the theme "Kalikasan Mo, Kinabukasan Mo." It started 11 o'clock A to 5 o'clock B students attended the activity which included several lectures on environmental awareness and protection.

A case of double cross

ON TARGET
RAMON FRANCISCO

THERE is no doubt that Peso. dent Noy is sincere in his "daang matuwid" campaign and narrow party's kind of governance.

What he says he does, when we see the presidential convoy wending through traffic without using sirens, the use of which he denounced in his inaugural address.

But then some of his subordinates are playing a different tune.

For example, at the Bureau of Customs, some officials allowed the entry of a little less than P600 million worth of Indian rice in exchange for a sum of money.

The customs officials were told that part of the shipment meant for Cambodia got to Indonesia, before it arrived at the Subic Freeport, according to customs insiders.

But the customs officials learned that the rice shipment would not be transhipped and the fake money was not properly accounted to the huge shipment.

"Taalang yung perang nilagay ni Aquino (The billion was a public) money)," said one customs guy.

Come to think of it, why would somebody import a huge shipment of rice, which needs a government permit, and would easily be detected, if they had to point arrangement with some people at customs?

The winner of the huge rice shipment is the Subic Freeport was a case of double cross.

* * *

At the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), everything is back to "normal," meaning the old, corrupt set-up.

An NBI official allegedly received P5 million and some of his subordinates P500,000 each after an inspecting a stockpile of rice shipment in a warehouse in Bataan province.

The shipment was legal as the owner showed NBI evidence of importation from the National Food Authority (NFA).

But the raiders would not leave until they were given money.

Even NBI Director Nonnatus Rojas, whose appointment was made permanent by the President personally upon the recommendation of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, knew this?

* * *

Rich Ramos, an ordinary citizen, was arraigned at the Muntinlupa Municipal Trial Court yesterday on charges of destruction of property through malicious mischief filed by Makati Prosecutor Emmanuel Medina.

Medina complained that Ramos burned his car which he says, from Ephesians, was driving.

But I saw pictures of the accident and it was the driver who was Mad Max's car that banged the other vehicle.

Medina must have pulled some strings at the Muntinlupa Prosecutor's Office since his wife, Antoniette Medina, is the city's regional trial court judge.

If so, isn't this a case of gross abuse of power?

₱25,000 can help save a life

By Santiago B. Alvarez

ACTS is the help of Small Scattered Islanders readers, Lucy Hotel hopes to complete the six dismembered organs but doctor had recommended for her after she was diagnosed to be suffering from Hepatic Encephalopathy.

The only thing that has prevented her from having her multiple Philippine General Hospital is her lack of money. She was supposed to undergo treatment on Jan. 31.

Each session costs ₱20,000.

VIRAL

The 40-year-old native from Bohol is working as a housemaid in Manila. She came to the city three years ago to find a job so that she would have money to send home to her father who suffered a stroke. Both her parents have since passed away.

Lucy thought that she is going to suffer from a disease called Hepatic Encephalopathy which causes just a few months after that of schizophrenic Marvin Regala, Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday warned students, particularly those of the city's public schools, against forming or joining fraternities.

"It's violation of the said policy will automatically [lead] to [their] dismissal," Lim said as he directed Punnamenan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) president and concerned university to the mayor Rabelais Gameplan City College of Manila president Sol Arboleda and Division of City Schools superintendent Dr. Paciano Rigonan to ensure that all high school and college students would be made aware of the city's move to strictly enforce the policy.

"Students need only to concentrate on their studies to finish their chosen courses and pursuing honorable jobs in our country for them to make good on school or course friends," Lim said, adding that he himself finished his school without joining any fraternity.

Dr. Rigonan directed Gumaba, Ichalanan and Mangalo- to ensure that fraternities would not be able to recruit members from the city-run schools and to make sure that those recruitment efforts would be "nipped in the bud."

As for PLM, Gamaplan said that "there [was] no reason for any student to feign ignorance of the said prohibition" as the ban on fraternities in the school is clearly spelled out in the student manual.

Police earlier said that the battered body of Marvin, 21, was found in Sa La Salle Quezon Medical Center in Dasmariñas City, Cavite, around 10:30 p.m. on July 29 by two still unidentified men and two women named Marlou Gaudayo and Soledad Sunda. The relatives were pronounced dead the following day.

Police have been looking for four Angelo Velez, tagged as one of the master initiators of the Lex Leonum fraternity, and 10 other people believed to have taken part in the initiation rites that allegedly took place on the Velez family's farm in Dasmariñas City.

Lim warns Manila students vs joining fraternities

By Jamie Marie Gora

THE 2012 E, as can other students of any government-run schools in Manila.

Following the death by hazing of two Bobo College of Law students Marvin Andrew Marcos which came just a few months after that of schoolmate Marvin Regala, Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday warned students, particularly those of the city's public schools, against forming or joining fraternities.

"It's violation of the said policy will automatically [lead] to [their] dismissal," Lim said as he directed Punnamenan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) president and concerned university to the mayor Rabelais Gameplan City College of Manila president Sol Arboleda and Division of City Schools superintendent Dr. Paciano Rigonan to ensure that all high school and college students would be made aware of the city's move to strictly enforce the policy.

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Baclaran vendors defy ban on toxic creams

From page A13

ing a portable X-ray fluorescence device, the group found out that the 18 products contained excessive mercury levels, with Mas Brown Magic Cream registering the highest amount of the toxic ingredient at 32,700 ppm.

According to the World Health Organization, the use of mercury-tainted products can cause kidney damage, skin disease, anxiety, depression and mental illness.

The products purchased by EcoWaste Coalition rebuffs it described as having "dubious" information on their labels were Pinaty 7-Day Whitening Spot-Is Removing Cream, both do-bel- containing no information about the product manufacturer or distributor; Qian Mei 'product label and name' cream in Chinese, Russian and Thai's Ayang Brown Creaming and Pearl Natural Pure Hana Whitening Cream Supplied from Ilocos Sur; Unity and TPC Spot Removal Cream from Mexico but made in PRC in People's Republic of China.

On the other hand, the six FDA-banned products were Jandi Shinedown Cream, Jandi 7-Days Specific Eliminating Freckle All-Sex, Miss Beauty Magic Cream, Miss Beauty Excellent Therapy Whitening Cream, Miss Beauty Excellent Therapy Whitening Cream and Rose New York, Unity and TPC.

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

INVITATION TO BID
For
Lease of Warehouse with Configuration Facilities

The COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders to submit sealed bids for the Lease of Warehouse with Configuration Facilities with the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of ONE HUNDRED TWELVE MILLION PESOS (₱112,000,000.00), inclusive of all taxes, from October 2012 to December 2013 (fifteen (15) months) or so much of the ABC shall be automatically applied.

Bidders should have completed, within FIVE (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section 3 - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) no. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commission on Audit (COA) rules.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat Office, 2/F Palacio del Gobernador Bldg., and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on August 07, 2012 to August 28, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of One Hundred Twelve Thousand Pesos (₱112,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

BAC SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Commission on Elections
2/F Palacio del Gobernador Bldg.
Intramuros, Manila
www.comelec.gov.ph

The COMELEC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on August 14, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the COMELEC Session Hall, 4th Floor, Palacio del Gobernador Bldg., Cor. Luna cor. Postigo Sts., Intramuros, Manila, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Submission and opening of Bids shall be on August 28, 2012 at 09:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., respectively, at the BAC Secretariat Office, 2/F Palacio del Gobernador Bldg., Cor. Luna and Postigo Sts., Intramuros, Manila (submission of bids) and in the Bureau of the Treasury Convention Hall, 3rd Floor, Palacio del Gobernador Bldg., Cor. Luna cor. Postigo Sts., Intramuros, Manila (opening of bids).

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount of 2% (Clause 19.1 of the Bidding Documents).

The COMELEC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) HELEN G. AGUILA-FLORES
BAC Chairperson

PDI, Aug 06 (P1)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
Lakewood, Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Zamboanga del Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites reputable contractors/suppliers/consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Name of Project	Insurance Coverage for Agro Emergency Response Team Tanning on Disaster Risk Reduction Management
Location	Provincial Government of Zamboanga del Sur
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 1,000,000.00
Source of Fund	Calamity Fund

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar contract and have key personnel and equipment available for the execution of the contract.

The Eligibility check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion. Only bidders who have passed the eligibility check/screening shall be qualified to bid. Bidders not found to be qualified for the purpose of bidding shall be informed their grounds for disqualification, if so requested.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders on August 14, 2012 to August 28, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The BAC will conduct a pre-qualification bidders' conference at Regional Development Council Conference Room, Capitol Compound, Pagadian City, on August 21, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of explaining the requirements to prospective bidders. Attendance to the conference is not mandatory. However, bidders who intend to participate in the bidding are encouraged to attend.

The BAC will open the bids in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on August 28, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Provincial Government of Zamboanga del Sur reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) ELMER B. NARVASA JR., CPA
Provincial Governor

PDI, Aug 06 (P1)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Brgy. Nalasin, Laoag City (183)
(077) 744-1-2222, 744-1-2333 / 772-1-2222, 772-1-2333 / 744-1-2222, 744-1-2333

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting all interested suppliers, manufacturers, distributors to apply for eligibility and to submit bids/offering:

Bid No.	Name of Project (Brief Description)	Amt. of Bid Documents
INEC-ICM-2012	Supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of 1-10 MVA/69/13.2 kV Power Transformer for Dan Substation	Php 10,000.00 (non-refundable)

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar contract and have key personnel and equipment available for the execution of this contract.

The Eligibility check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion. Only bidders who have passed the eligibility check/screening shall be qualified to bid. Bidders not found to be qualified for the purpose of bidding shall be informed their grounds for disqualification, if so requested. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, as amended, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

A complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Venue	Date	Time
Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid	BAC Secretariat, INEC main office	August 13-17, 2012	8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Pre-Bid Conference	Training Room, INEC main office	August 20, 2012	10:00 A.M.
Deadline for submission of eligibility documents and opening thereof	BAC Secretariat, INEC main office	August 24, 2012	10:00 A.M.
Post-Qualification	BAC Committee Room	August 28, 2012	10:00 A.M.

Bid documents may be obtained from the Bids Secretariat Office at the INEC-NEC Main Office, Brgy. Nalasin, Laoag City. For additional information and clarification, please contact Engr. Ma. Elena Ilagan at (077) 744-1-2222, (077) 772-1-2222 or (077) 744-1-2333.

The INEC-Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder and without disclosing any reason for rejecting any bid(s) and advantage thereof and to waive any defect therein. Late bids shall not be considered. Non-submission of documents may be a cause for disqualification.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO R. AGLIAM
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) REMATO A. BALBATEO, PEE
General Manager

ATM - August 7 & 8, 2012

Communist Vietnam mulls legalization of same-sex marriages

HANOI—Communist Vietnam is considering legalizing same-sex marriage, which would catapult it to the front of gay rights in Asia, where traditional values dominate many societies and outdoing it illegal in some.

While homosexuality was once viewed as a "social evil" in the authoritarian nation, it is slowly shedding its taboo status.

In the most visible sign yet of change, about 100 cyclists wearing rainbow flags pedaled through Hanoi on Sunday for Vietnam's first ever gay pride parade, shouting: "We support same-sex marriage."

Now year, lawmakers in the one-party state are set to amend the country's marriage legislation and the justice ministry said recently they would consider including same-sex couples in the law for the first time.

The discussion is an act early stage and experts say the changes will likely stop short of legalizing gay marriage.

But they may allow for civil unions, or develop some kind of legal protection for same-sex couples who cohabit or wish to adopt children, which would put Vietnam ahead of its regional neighbors in progress on gay rights.

Hanoi is frequently criticized by international watchdogs for human rights abuses, making it unusual to see public champion for the region's Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community.

"No country in Southeast Asia—even Thailand—has proposed gay marriage for official discussion as (Vietnam's move) is quite a surprise for many people," sociologist Le Quang Binh told AFP.

But he pointed out that unlike Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, Vietnam does not have powerful social groups that are vocal in their opposition to gay rights issues for religious reasons.

"Vietnam is actually quite a distinctive case—we would say that we're lucky," said Binh, who has headed several research projects on lesbian and gay issues.

Le Hoang, 22, a lesbian who has been with her girlfriend for two years but has not come out to her family said social pressure was the biggest problem for members of Vietnam's small but increasingly visible LGBT community.

"I feel very sad ... I feel very guilty. I don't feel guilty because I fell in love with a girl, but I feel guilty because I cannot be honest with my mom," said Hoang, who asked for her and her girl friend's names to be changed.

While it is not illegal, homosexuality has long been a taboo in the communist country, where Confucian social mores—with their emphasis on tradition and family—still dominate.

Hoang's girlfriend, Nguyen Thi Hoa, said she too wrote out to her family, fearing that it would expose them to tremendous opposition from neighbors and friends who view homosexuality as a disease.

But they are hopeful that could change if Vietnam does amend the marriage law—and say that if it does happen, they want to adopt children together.

"Besides adopting a child, really I would not feel incomplete and prove love. When I have a marriage license (I will be able to) prove that there's nothing wrong with our love," Hoa said.

The only other countries in the Asia-Pacific region where same-sex marriage is even on the agenda are Australia and New Zealand—the latter already allows civil unions and lawmakers there are set to vote soon on legalizing gay marriage.

But both Myanmar and Laos currently hold gay pride parades, indicating that 12,000 activists and supporters are becoming more assertive about decriminalizing rights in some parts of Southeast Asia.

Taiwan is the host of Asia's biggest gay pride parade, attracting tens of thousands every year, although acceptance of homosexuality is still much lower than the United States and Europe, according to some surveys.

There has also been a resurgence of interest in the issue in conservative Japan—Shinjuku-ku—where gay sex is illegal but laws are rarely enforced, and some 13,000 people gathered recently to show their support for tolerance. AFP

DEAD fish float in a drying pond near Rock Port, Missouri, as the sizzling summer dries up rivers and raises water temperatures. AP

7 dead, 3 hurt in shooting at Wisconsin Sikh temple

OAK CREEK, Wisconsin—A gunman killed six people and critically wounded three at a Sikh temple on Sunday before police shot him dead in an attack authorities are treating as an act of domestic terrorism.

Authorities said a tall, bald, white man in his 40s opened fire just before services had begun, storming the kitchen at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in suburban Oak Creek at about 10:30 a.m. as women prepared a Sunday meal, sending worshippers fleeing to escape the hail of gunfire.

Some witnesses said he had a 9/11 tattoo, marking the September 11, 2001, attacks by Islamist militants.

"He had tattoos, I don't know what the exact markings were, or if they represented any of his beliefs or what they stood for," said Thomas Ahern, a spokesperson for the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Most people were shot dead inside the sprawling temple.

Three more, including the gunman, were killed outside.

The gunman ambushed and shot a police officer who was responding to a 911 call and helping a shooting victim, Oak Creek Police Chief John Edwards said. A second officer shot and killed the gunman.

The wounded officer, a 28-year veteran, was taken to a hospital and is expected to survive. Hospital officials said two other victims, also in critical condition, were being treated.

Authorities did not release the name of the suspect. They said police chief Edwards had in his investigation pistol, rifle and were recovered at the scene. Officials were tracing origin of the weapon, Ahern said.

Police surrounded and searched a gray two-story house in the Cudahy neighborhood, prompting a knock-at-the-door of the gunman on Sunday evening. Generators and floodlights were set up along the middle-class block.

A police source confirmed that a search warrant had been issued for the house, and a bomb squad was on the scene.

Temple members and US Army Reserve member Sunday Joggal Singh, 28, said people who were at the service when the shooting broke out described in film a scene of chaos and confusion.

"Everybody was scrambling to escape the gunfire, but some tragically ran in the wrong direction. Others survived the rampage by locking themselves in bathrooms," he said.

Family and friends of the victims gathered in the basement of a nearby bowling alley as they awaited for their loved ones to be identified. While the names of the victims had not been released by late Sunday, several members said the congregation president and a priest were among them.

Twelve wounding Sikhs are of ten mistaken for Muslims, said the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Sikh is overseeing the probe into shootings, Edwards said.

"We're treating this as a domestic terrorist incident," he said reporters. Officials had no details about a possible motive.

Milwaukee's Froedtert Hospital said three male victims included one who had been shot in the abdomen, one in the extremities and chest, and a third who was hit in the neck.

The Oak Creek shooting was the latest in a series of suburban US gun rampages. Organizations fighting gun violence says Wisconsin's gun safety laws is weak. Reuters

POLICE work outside the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin where a gunman stormed the Main and opened fire, killing at least six people. AFP

DEAD fish float in a drying pond near Rock Port, Missouri, as the sizzling summer dries up rivers and raises water temperatures. AP

Rising temperatures kill thousands of fish

LINCOLN, Nebraska—Thousands of fish are dying in central United States as the hot, dry summer dries up rivers and creeks amid temperatures in climb to some spots on nearly 38 degrees Celsius.

About 40,000 shovelnose sturgeon were killed in Iowa last week as water temperatures reached 36.1 Celsius. Nebraska fishery officials said they've seen thousands of dead sturgeon, catfish, carp and other species in the Lower Platte River, including the endangered pallid sturgeon. And biologists in Illinois said the hot weather has killed tens of thousands of large- and small-mouth bass and channel catfish and is threatening the population of the greater redhorse fish, a state-endangered species.

In many fish deaths on Illinois lake that the carcasses clogged an intake screen into a power plant, lowering water levels to the point that the station had to shut down one of its generators.

"It's something I've never seen in my career, and I've been here for more than 37 years," said Mark Flammang, a fisheries biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "I think what we're mostly dealing with here are the currents: how flows and this unparalleled heat."

The fish are victims of one of the driest and warmest summers in history. The federal US Drought Monitor shows nearly two-thirds of the lower 48 states are experiencing some form of drought, and the Department of Agriculture has declared more than half of the country's counties—nearly 1,600 in 31 states—as natural disaster areas. More than 5,000 heat records were broken over the last month.

Iowa DNR officials said the sturgeon found dead in the Des Moines River were worth nearly $10 million, a high value based in part on their highly sought eggs, which are used for caviar. The fish are valued at more than $1.50 a pound.

Gavin Gibbons, a spokesperson for the National Fisheries Institute, said the sturgeon kills don't appear to have reduced the supply enough to hurt regional caviar suppliers.

Flattening said warehoused eggs improved some of Iowa's stores and lakes, but temperatures were rising again and creating a emergency population that develops health problems when water temperatures climb into the 80s.

"These fish have been in these rivers for thousands of thousands of years, and they've survived a lot of all sorts of weather conditions," he said. "But sometimes, you have exceptions event that are outside their scales of tolerance."

In Illinois, heat and lack of rain has dried up a large swath of Asia Sable Creek, the state's largest habitat for the state-protected greater redhorse, a large bottom-feeding fish, said Dan Stephenson, a biologist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

"We're talking hundreds of thousands (killed), maybe millions by now," Stephenson said. "If you're only talking about game fish, it's probably in the thousands. But for all fish, it's probably in the millions if you look rationally." AP

Macau police detain 150, HK nab 130 in gang war

HONG KONG—Police detained more than 150 people in weekend raids on casinos and hotels in Macau after a recent spate of killings caused fears of a new gang war in the world's largest gambling destination.

Starting Hong Kong police raided 21 locations in Macau at 2 a.m. part of the joint operation and arrested 130 people on suspicion of various crimes including money laundering involving HK$300 million, illegal gambling and prostitution. Police also seized cash, luxury watches and secret move than HK$1.5 million.

Macau, a former Portuguese territory, was gripped by gang wars in the late 1990s and the recent murders of three people in rare months, thought linked to the gambling industry, some just months ahead of the release from jail of triad boss "Broken Tooth" Wan Kuok-koi, who wrestled control in that territory. Almost 1,000 people were rounded up on Friday and Saturday in Macau, a one-hour ferry ride from Hong Kong, and 150 of them were taken in for questioning to the operation coordinated "Thunderbolt."

"This operation is an annual exercise to maintain public security in a joint enforcement undertaken by police in Guangdong province, Macau and Hong Kong to crack down and prevent crime in this region," a Macau police spokesperson said.

The Macau raids came just weeks after a Chinese woman was found murdered in a residential area minutes away from the cavernous gambling halls of gaming magnate Stanley Ho's sprawling Lisboa Hotel.

That followed the murders of two Chinese nationals at the five-star Grand Lapa hotel in Macau and an attack at the end of June on a senior figure in Macau's junket industry which extends credit to rich gamblers. Reuters

FedEx starts direct Asia-Europe flights

FEDEX Express (FedEx), a subsidiary of FedEx Corp., has launched two additional Boeing 777 Freighter (777F) routes in Asia Pacific. Both 777F routes have five weekly flights from Tuesday to Saturday, from Shanghai and Guangzhou in China to the FedEx hub in Cologne, Germany. This is the first time that FedEx has launched a 777F direct flight from its Asia Pacific hub in Guangzhou to Europe. "The deployment of more nonstop 777F services from Asia Pacific to Europe marks continuous efforts by FedEx to strengthen our network and meet increasing customer demand between these two important trade lanes," said David L. Cunningham, president, Asia Pacific, FedEx Express. With the launch of two more 777F routes in China, FedEx now operates seven 777F routes connecting Asia Pacific to the US and Europe. The 777F is the world's largest twin-engine cargo aircraft.

BOHOL II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 100 KVA SOLAR HOME SYSTEMS FOR THE BOHOL II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. (BOHECO II)

Bohol II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO II) intends to apply the sum of ... being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ... Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

Lot No.	Quantity	Bid Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Time of the Delivery/ Work Completion	Bid Security Period
1	100 Units	Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 100 kVA Solar Home System for the Bohol II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO II)	Php 4,87 5,000.00	Php 4,000.00	90 CD

The Contractor is required to submit the following:

Activity	Duration
Awarding and Signing of Contract	August 7, 2012
Delivery of Materials to BOHECO II	August 8, 2012
Installation, Testing and Commissioning	September 10, 2012
Issuance of Completion Certificate	September 11, 2012
Turnover of Equipment to the End-Users/Opening of Bids	August 31, 2012 - 10:00 AM

The Contractor shall submit the following documents to the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the Notice of Award: (1) Performance Bond; (2) Insurance Policy; (3) Contract Agreement; and (4) Notice to Proceed.

The Contractor shall submit the following documents to the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the Notice of Award: (1) Performance Bond; (2) Insurance Policy; (3) Contract Agreement; and (4) Notice to Proceed.

The Bid Documents shall be issued to BOHECO II Board Room, Cogtagan, Agape, Bohol.

It shall be done in all calendar days. Contract may be awarded by lot basis.

Submission and Opening of Bids shall be held at BOHECO II Office, Cogtagan, Agape, Bohol.

The Bidder shall have their duly accredited and qualified representative present during the opening of bids. Bidders shall submit their bids in sealed envelopes, which shall be identified by the name of the Bidder and the Lot No. for which the bid is submitted. Bidders shall submit their bids in sealed envelopes, which shall be identified by the name of the Bidder and the Lot No. for which the bid is submitted.

Contract shall be awarded to the lowest calculated and responsive bid. BOHECO II reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ELMER B. ESPAÑOLA
Chairperson, BAC

(Sgd.) ENGR. ELMER B. ESPAÑOLA
General Manager

(PUB.) August 7, 2012

INVITATION TO BID

GOCC Entity hereby is inviting sealed bid proposals for the supply of items listed in the following proposition on an "All or None" basis:

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum Bid
1	4.8 KW (@ 24 VDC) 100 sq.m. monocrystalline PV w/ 1 battery backup	San Antonio San Miguel, Bulacan	Php 3,000,000.00
2	3.6 KW (@ 24 VDC) 100 sq.m. monocrystalline PV w/ 1 battery backup	Lot 1 Lindsay St. Subdivision, Brgy. Obrero Paranaque, Quezon City	Php 3,000,000.00
3	3.6 KW (@ 24 VDC) 100 sq.m. monocrystalline PV w/ 1 battery backup	Lot 1 Blk. 1 Brgy. Bunlog Bunlog, Bulacan	Php 3,000,000.00
4	4.8 KW sq. m. monocrystalline PV	Lot 1 Blk. 1 Lawrence St. Subdivision Cubao Brgy Ugong, Pasig, 1604	Php 4,000,000.00
5	4.8 KW (@ 24 VDC) 100 sq.m. monocrystalline PV w/ 1 battery backup	4388 Lacson St. Blk. Pag-asa, Quiapo, Manila	Php 4,000,000.00
6	3.6 KW (@ 24 VDC) 100 sq.m. monocrystalline PV w/ 1 battery backup	1 Unit 1 Casa Grande St. west Square Brgy Culiat, Quezon City/Novaliches	Php 3,000,000.00

Complete descriptions/specifications of the above proposition including guidelines and bidding forms are available from MS. SUSAN B. MAXWELL, Tel. No. 524-1400 loc 69 loc. 144.

Sealed bids will be received by the Bidding Committee, 2000 Manila Bank at 3rd Floor AIC Executive Tower, corner Gamboa Street, Legaspi Corridor, Ayala Avenue, Makati at 10:00 a.m. but not later than 11:00 a.m. on August 15, 2012, after which the said proposals shall be opened in the presence of interested bidders. Only Philippine banks can be entertained.

GOCC-PHILCO BANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ELMER B. ESPAÑOLA
Chairperson, BAC

(Sgd.) ENGR. ELMER B. ESPAÑOLA
General Manager

(PUB.) August 7, 2012

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casco

Syrian premier defects to Jordan

HIJAB

AZAZ—Syrian Prime Minister Riyad Hijab has been sacked, state television reported on Monday, and an official source in Amman said he has defected with his family to neighboring Jordan.

Syrian state TV announced Hijab's dismissal as government forces appeared to prepare a ground assault to clear battered rebels from Aleppo, the country's biggest city.

Presidential Sheikan Assad appointed Hijab, a former agriculture minister, as prime minister only in June following a parliamentary election which authorities said was a step towards political reform but which opposition dismissed as a sham.

"Hijab is in Jordan with his family," said the Jordanian official source, who did not want to be further identified.

Syrian TV said Omar Ghalkhoul, who was previously a deputy prime minister, had been appointed to lead a temporary caretaker government on Monday.

Earlier in the day, a Jordanian Air Force Hercules transport aircraft was seen flying at low altitude over the Syrian border town of Deraa, where Assad's forces have been battling rebels for control of the area.

Hijab is the highest-ranking official to defect from Assad's government since July 2011, when Manaf Tlass, a brigadier general in the Republican Guard and a close friend of the president, fled to Jordan and then to France.

Tlass's defection was a major blow to Assad, who has relied on a small circle of loyalists from his own Alawite minority and other minorities, including Christians, to maintain his grip on power.

Hijab's defection could also be a boost to the rebels, who have been struggling to capture Aleppo despite weeks of fighting.

Rebels in districts of Aleppo visited by Reuters journalists seemed battered, overwhelmed and running low on ammunition after days of intense tank shelling and helicopter gunships assailing their positions with heavy machine gun fire.

Emboldened by an audacious bomb attack in Damascus that killed four of Assad's top security officials last month, the rebels had tried to overrun the Damascus and Aleppo, the country's commercial hub.

But the lightly armed rebels have been outgunned by the Syrian Army's superior weaponry. They were largely driven out of Damascus and are struggling to hold on to territorial gains made in Aleppo, a city of 2.3 million.

Damascus has criticized Gulf Arab states and Turkey for calling for the rebels to be armed, and state TV has described the rebels as a "Turkish-Gulf militia," saying dead Turkish and Afghan fighters had been found in Aleppo.

Participants in the UN Security Council vote how to stop the bloodshed from peace envoy Kofi Annan to resign last week, his ceasefire plan a distant memory.

The violence has already shown elements of a proxy war between Sunni and Shi'ite Islamic rebels could spill beyond Syria's borders. The rebels claimed responsibility for capturing 48 Iranians in Syria, forcing Tehran to call on Turkey and Qatar—major supporters of the rebels—to help secure their release.

Reuters

Islamists kill 15 Egyptian cops, Israeli jets strike attackers

CAIRO—Islamist gunmen killed at least 15 Egyptian policemen and seized an Army tank in an assault on a Sinai police station near the border with Israel on Sunday, the deadliest attack in the region in at least two decades.

The attack, which saw Israeli aircraft destroy a vehicle used by the gunmen in an attempt to storm the fortified border, was the first major security emergency for Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, who assumed his military council.

Egyptian state television said Israeli military officials said an Islamist militant group was responsible for the assault.

Israel has previously accused Palestinian militants in Gaza of involvement in militant activity in Sinai, whose insecurity has spread since the US-aligned Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, was toppled by a citizen revolt last year.

Sunday's attack will force Egypt and Israel to engage at a time when both are still in the process of recalibrating their relationship after Morsi, an Islamist, assumed office at the end of June. It may also test Egypt's relationship with Hamas, the rulers of the Gaza Strip, if it is shown that Palestinian gunmen were involved.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "Thanks to the determined action of the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) and the Shin Bet (internal security agency), a big attack against Israeli civilians was prevented."

The Egyptian state news agency quoted a security officials saying the attack was carried out by militants who infiltrated from Gaza via a tunnel as well as by other militants from their own regions in Egypt's Sinai peninsula.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak called for "determined Egyptian action" to "prevent terror in Sinai." "Elements of a jihad organization about 20[illegible] in one of the checkpoints south of the Kerem Shalom border," Egyptian state television said. It said 15 security forces personnel had been killed and at least 7 wounded.

It was not clear how many militants were involved.

Tanks were in exchanges of fire with the attackers who seized an Army tank and used it to make a second attack in Rafah," the Egyptian television report said.

Israeli military spokesperson Avital Leibovich said gunmen had seized two vehicles. One exploded and the second was destroyed by Israeli aircraft.

"As of now, we know of no terrorists still in the area. There are some Israeli communities nearby, and residents have been asked to stay in their homes." An Egyptian security source said the Rafah border crossing with Gaza had been closed "indefinitely" after the attack.

In a statement, a spokesperson for Netanyahu said: "The terrorists who killed the Egyptian security men seized two Egyptian military vehicles and tried to storm the Israeli border."

He said the vehicles that tried to breach the border were destroyed at the Kerem Shalom crossing near the southern Gaza Strip, a military zone where the borders of Israel, Egypt and Gaza intersect.

A television journalist based in North Sinai said the area was sealed off by Egyptian security forces, who had blocked the road from the main town of al-Arish in the direction of the Gaza border crossing at Rafah.

Earlier on Sunday, an Israeli airstrike killed a Palestinian gunman from a radical Islamist group and wounded another as they rode a motorbike in southern Gaza near the Egyptian border.

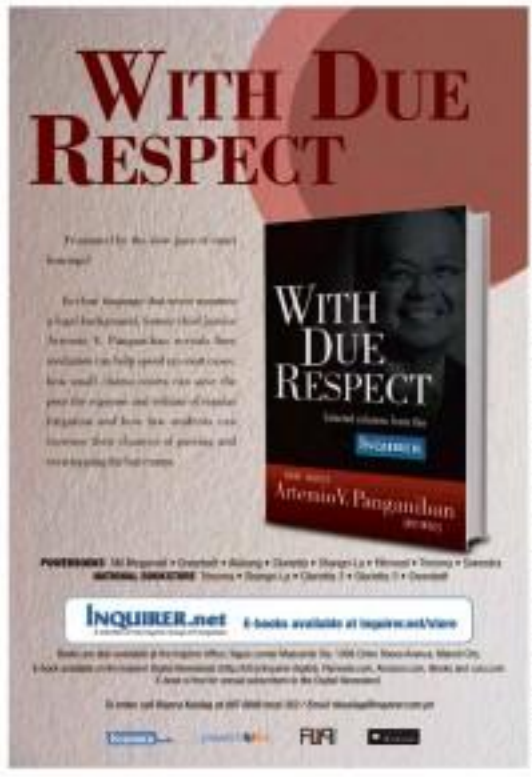
It was not immediately possible to confirm whether the incidents were linked.

Gaza is governed by Hamas, a Palestinian Islamist movement which, while also hostile to the Jewish state, is considered more moderate by many Salafis and Iran at times clashed with them during June and earlier in 2012.

Hamas condemned the attack and closed the tunnels to Egypt through which it smuggles goods to avoid an Israeli-Egyptian blockade. Residents said the atmosphere was tense.

Reuters

EGYPTIANS stand outside the Rafah hospital, after an attack which Egypt and Israel blamed on Islamist militants from the Hamas-run Gaza Strip in Egypt's northern Sinai Peninsula. —



JAPANESE Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda (right) bows in front of the cenotaph for the atomic bomb victims at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan. —

Hiroshima marks 67th year of atomic bombing

TOKYO—Japan marked the 67th anniversary of the world's first atomic bomb attack with a ceremony Monday that was attended by a grandson of Harry Truman, the US president who ordered the bomb dropped on the city of Hiroshima.

About 50,000 people gathered in Hiroshima's peace park near the epicenter of the 1945 blast that destroyed most of the city and killed as many as 140,000 people. A second atomic bombing Aug. 9 that year in Nagasaki killed tens of thousands more and prompted Japan to surrender in the World War II allies.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of about 75 countries, began with the ringing of a temple bell and a moment of silence. Flowers were placed before Hiroshima's eternal flame, which is the park's centerpiece.

Truman's grandson, Clifton Truman Daniel, and the grandson of a radar operator who was on board the planes that dropped the atomic bombs, joined in the commemoration. Ali Beser's grandfather, Jacob Beser, was the only person who directly took part in both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

In a news conference after the memorial, Daniel declined to comment on whether his grandfather's decision was the right one.

"I'm not prepared to [over the line. It's] not my responsibility to do all I can to make sure we never use nuclear weapons again," he said, according to Japan's Kyodo news service.

Daniel, 51, said in a statement earlier that he decided to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki because he needed to know the consequences of his grandfather's decision as part of his own efforts to help achieve a nuclear-free world.

The UK government sent a representative—the American ambassador—to the annual commemoration for the first time two years ago. Ambassador John Roos attended the Hiroshima ceremony on Monday.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui said Japan must take a bolder role in leading global disarmament efforts and called on world leaders to come to his city to "witness peace."

He also said the nuclear accident in Fukushima last year has drawn the dangers of nuclear technology, even for peaceful purposes, and urged the government to create a mix of energy sources for Japan that is safe and secure.

"I firmly believe that the demand for freedom from nuclear weapons will soon spread out from Hiroshima, encircle the globe, and lead us to genuine world peace," he said.

AP

IN THIS ISSUE
■ 91-day treasury bill rate down 31.5 points /B3
■ Interest rates seen to stay low up to '15 /B6

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Z1 Workstation

Sy bank raising $2B from IOU sale abroad

Funds for relending to PPP infrastructure projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S leading financial institution Banco de Oro Unibank is raising up to $2 billion from an overseas debt facility to boost funds for long-term relending, including funding for big-ticket infrastructure projects under the government's public-private partnership (PPP) program.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, the bank unveiled plans to set up a $2-billion Euro Medium Term Note (EMTN) program and retire P15 billion in tier-2 debt by November this year.

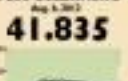
"These are part of the bank's liability management initiatives to tap longer-term funding sources and lower funding costs," the disclosure said.

The EMTN program is a medium-term foreign currency funding facility that gives flexibility in issue foreign

(To page B2)

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Aug. 6, 2012
41.835



STOCK MARKET
Aug. 6, 2012
▼ 1.75

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks weighed down by PLDT, EDC

LOCAL stocks gave up early gains to close slightly lower yesterday as investors turned cautious ahead of the earnings results of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and braced for further delay in the recommencing of Energy Development Co.'s Bacon-Manito (BacMan) geothermal plant.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index closed 1.15 points or 0.02-percent lower at 5,784.16, weighed down by PLDT and EDC. Elsewhere across the region, trading was upbeat on better-than-expected US jobs report and hopes for further European Union action to curb debt crisis.

The burst of confidence arising from a good stream of local corporate earnings was spoiled by caution ahead of PLDT's report of first-semester earnings. PLDT, which has a 12.23-percent weight on the index, saw its shares fall 1 percent. It was reported that PLDT's first-half core earnings were expected to have gone down year on year.

Another sentiment dampener was EDC, which shed 2.5 percent on talks that it would not be able to complete refurbishment work on its geothermal power plant by September.

A fund manager said that with the prospect delay EDC might incur spending losses in third-and fourth-

(See B-2, Stocks)

Meralco customers face higher August billings

By Amy R. Remo

CUSTOMERS of Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest power distributor, may have to brace for higher bills in August as the cost of electricity it bought from generation companies increased last month.

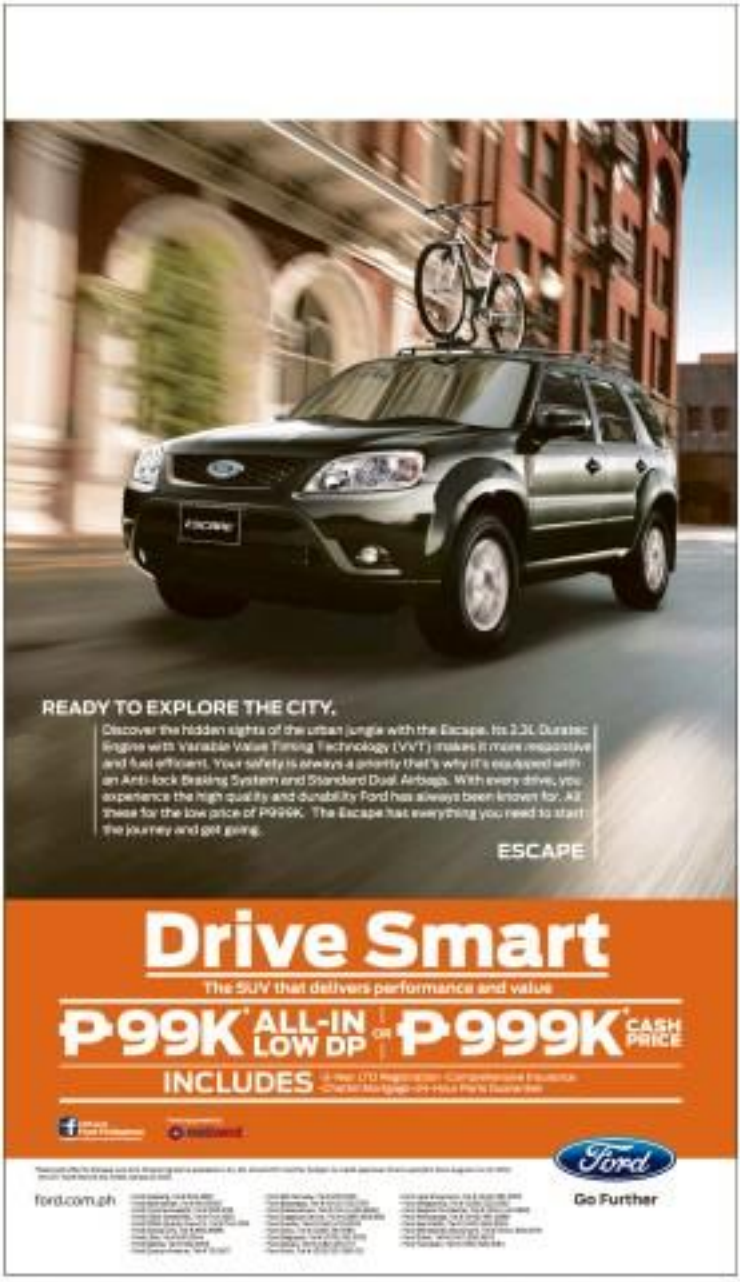
This higher power rate was attributed mainly to the eight-day shutdown of the Malampaya gas facility in offshore Palawan in July, according to a source privy to Meralco data.

The source explained that the 1,000-megawatt (Mw, Pilo and the 500-MW San Lorenzo natural gas-fired power plants owned by First Gen—which depended solely on the Malampaya field for their gas supply—were forced to run using the more expensive liquid fuel to ensure continued and stable power supply to Luzon. The two facilities contributed a large portion of Meralco's electricity requirements on a monthly basis.

At the same time, the 1,200-MW Ilijan natural gas plant was also shut down for a certain period last month, prompting Meralco "to resort to the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) to make up for the unavailability of(the)...," the source said.

Apart from the IPPs and the WESM, Meralco also sources a portion of its electricity requirements from the state-run National Power Corp.

(MERALCO/B2)



MPIC raising funds in US

Appoints Deutsche Bank to handle ADR issue

By Doris C. Dumlao

INFRASTRUCTURE holding firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) plans to tap fresh funds from the US market through a maiden offering of American depositary receipts (ADRs).

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the holding firm led by businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan said it was scheduled to launch yesterday its first tranche of ADR offering through appointed depositary bank Deutsche Bank.

MPIC president and CEO Jose Ma. K. Lim said the progress was "in line with the company's thrust to broaden its investor base by making its stock available to the widest possible market."

ADRs refer to negotiable certificates issued by a bank in the United States that serve as a proxy to a specified number of shares in a foreign company that is traded on the stock exchanges. These are denominated in dollars, with the underlying security held by an international financial institution overseas.

Each ADR instrument is deemed a good option to acquire an interest in a foreign company while collecting dividends and capital gains in dollar denomination. ADRs are usually listed on the New York Stock Exchange, Nasdaq or traded over the counter.

"I think they need to make a reverse stock split to make the stock more appealing to US investors," said Jose Mari Layese, an analyst at Cam. Joe Lanuza & Co. A reverse stock split means the number of shares are reduced such that the price and earnings per share will rise but the market capitalization remains the same.

If that's the case, Layese said the share price of MPIC would increase because of the reduction in the number of shares. "It makes the share price more expensive depending on the impact on odd lots," he said, adding he was assuming that MPIC would like to follow the model of telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which also has depositary receipts traded in the United States.

Both PLDT and MPIC are controlled by the Pangilinan-led First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong.

Shares of MPIC fell 1.1 percent or 09.15 for Layese said this was in line with the market's overall decline and likely not due to the announcement because MPIC offering. Based on yesterday's closing, MPIC had a market capitalization of 93,02.33 billion.

The 5,300 zone

MARKET RIDER

Dave Ian Saavedra

If MERALCO can hold the 5,300 zone on the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) it remains to be the market's "Mightest Liner," an investment term, so to speak.

When the market ended trading last Friday, it closed lower at 5,295.95, Consequently, the market fell to an equivalent loss of 66.26 points or 1.25 percent on a weekly basis. This is not the first time that the market stopped and closed lower at the 5, 300 level.

After an almost one-month rally, in June there announced to see and, hence equivalent to 466.21 points or 8.3 percent, the market hit the all-time record high of 5,369.90 on July 5. The following day, however, the market reversed direction and immediately fell. From there on, it went to a slow and continued fall. This resulted to the market losing as much as 237.62 points or 4.22 percent in 20 days as it settled at 5,132.56 on July 26.

Regardless of intervening events that can be attributed to or given the way the market behaved within this period—again, which could be any of the three major external factors that have been bugging the equity markets around the world, namely, the still very fluid credit situation in Europe, the full slowdown in the Chinese economy or the threat of sliding back to recession by the US economy—the fact remains that the market stopped short of breaking through the 5,300 level for the second time.

Considering league to be a battery mentally—bordering or not to the Chinese superstition of the "Ghost Month"—it seems that the 5,300 zone will serve as a resistance level in the meantime.

Significant developments

One of the factors that sent the market lower last week was the big price loss incurred by Philex Mining Corp. (PX) shares on Friday. The mine operation of the company was closed owing to an accident that involved the spillage of toxic wastes from its tailings pond, which, according to news reports, "put in question the structural integrity of one of the country's oldest mines." PX shares fell by as much as 7.50 percent.

According to additional information, Philex's main producing Padcal 3 mine in Tuba, Benguet, "located near the major northern mountain resort of Baguio," was closed until the safety and integrity of its tailings pond is assured. To quote government pronouncements, the tailings pond of Philex had an accident of discharge that "threatened to contaminate the aquatic life and quality of water of the agricultural."

And while it was claimed that the mining waste may not have affected the waters of the Agno river and its tributary leading to the San Roque dam, no settlement has been reached by Philex as to "how much land have challenged. Also, the government negligently agreed to change of the situation has not fixed any date yet as to when the mine will resume operations. So far, the operations of Philex in the Padcal mine has been suspended since Aug. 2.

Philex could drive down further the share price of Philex is the planned investigation by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB) to look into any violations of mining and environmental laws that have been committed by Philex.

Philex said that the accident was triggered by Typhoon Gener, which brought as much rain in the northeastern portion of the country that as of last count by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) were responsible for five dead as of 43 people.

Most simultaneous of the developments, the government has confirmed that it will go ahead with its plan to sell part of the Real Terminal Inc. (RTI). The public bidding for PTI, however, was limited by the Privatization and Management Office (PMO) to Aug. 14 from Aug. 8 to give interested parties additional days to conduct their due diligence review and to "given ample time to submit required documents." Only 34 hectares of the complex will be sold while the balance of 183 hectares will remain under government control and ownership.

The base price of 19.8.25 billion that terms are by government for the 34 hectares. Several developers have already pre-qualified to bid. These are Filinvest Land Inc., Robinsons Land Corp., SM, Empire East Land Holdings Inc., Megaworld Land Corp. and Century Properties Group Inc.

Bottom line spin

On technical and fundamental considerations, it looks clear that the market does not have yet what it would take to possibly break out from the "5,300 zone" within the month of August. This period is reasonably free as to their other months. But it has served in most instances as a consolidation period for the market.

The Philippines enjoys a comparative advantage over other countries in the current global downturn. Accordingly it have "stable fiscal deficit, strong English skills and a belief in education." For the Philippines to benefit from its comparative advantage, however, it was observed that this would largely "depend on how the government makes the most of its opportunities."

Foreign observers recommended that the government pursue "structural transformation." Foremost in this recommendation was for the country to undertake some changes to existing "laws on taxing, taxation, competition, labor and trade." Current laws on these matters were said to be more responsible in discouraging investments from foreigners more than the often blamed foreign ownership limits in the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

Another aspect targeted to structural transformation is on the competitiveness of government processes in order to prevent direct contact with the bureaucracy. One simple example is the practice of requiring people to "show up at the Department of Trade and Industry and apply for permits," its pointed out. One procedure encourages passage and corruption as they expose people to direct contact with the bureaucracy. It was observed that "if the procedure were online, it would be much simple, quick and transparent for everyone."

Another example is the integration of customer fees in the price of airplane tickets. It is said that "we are the only country that collects a separate fee when it can just be billed directly." These old procedures do not only entail personnel inconveniences but increase the cost of doing business," according to the same source.

Another recommendation is for the government to also engage in extensive infrastructure activities. One suggestion that can bring development to the provinces and discourage Metro Manila is for infrastructure project connecting the North and South Luzon Expressway. But as further observed, the government must change its historic decision-making process. The current procedure has bogged down initiatives and projects.

If these few examples that observers cited are not properly and timely acted upon, it is believed that the country may again miss its opportunity to become an attractive center of investment, setting off its development and economic growth. And if these events are partially or belatedly addressed, the market may not even achieve the mid-of the-year 5,300 mark forecast of most market analyst and this is also just 200 points away from the current "Mightest Liner" in the market.

(The writer is a licensed stockbroker of Eagle Equities Inc. He may be reached the author/trader at marketrider@inquirer.com.ph , davesaavedra@msn.com or at www.kapatidcafe.com)

Sy bank raising $2B from IOU sale abroad To see page B4

[illegible] (peso-denominated) notes to the international capital markets. These are offerings on a continuous basis rather than a one-time deal like a bond issue, thus making it easier for an issuer like BDO to tap offshore capital markets.

EMTNs, which are issued and traded outside of Canada and the United States, are sold directly to the markets with maturities of less than five years. The issuer maintains a standardized document and usually sells through procedural buyers.

"Setting up the EMTN program is a preparatory move on the part of BDO so that will enhance the bank's ability to access longer-term funding by extending to projects like infrastructure under the government's PPP program," the disclosure said.

BDO also plans to exercise the early redemption option on its series 1 Tier 2 notes by Nov. 23.

"Proceeds of the proceeds from BDO's recent stock rights offer have already been committed for the redemption of these higher-cost notes, which carry a coupon rate of 7 percent. The retirement of these notes will reduce the bank's cost of funding as well as improve its capital structure as have set higher qualifying core or tier 1 capital," the disclosure said.

Meralco customers . . . From page B1

Meralco also expected to commence today the final amount of the generation charge, which is a pass-through component in the electricity bill.

It should be noted that the cost of electricity sold by the power generation companies could fluctuate month-by-month in several external factors such as the supply-demand situation, fuel prices and the foreign exchange rate. This is the reason why part of Meralco's sourcing strategy is to buy electricity from different suppliers to obtain adequate and reliable power at the most reasonable price.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

91-day treasury bill rate down 31.5 points

By Reena F. Domingo

THE YIELD on the benchmark 91-day treasury bill fell further by 31.5 basis points to an average of 1.495 percent as investors showed renewed interest in riskier open securities.

However, the results for the longer-term debt paper were mixed, with the yield on the 182-day bill falling 33.3 basis points to 1.796 percent while that on the 364-day bill rose by 14.3 basis points to 2.422 percent.

Mixed results for 6-month, 1-year notes

The Bureau of the Treasury raised only P7.3 billion instead of the planned P15 billion, given the partial award of the 91-day debt paper.

National Treasurer Roberto B. Tan said the average rate on the 364-day bill rose "mainly due to a narrower range of bids."

Had the BTr awarded fully the offered P6 billion in year-long security, the yield would have gone up by 18.4 basis points to 2.440 percent.

"The economic fundamentals are good and there is ample liquidity for short-term placements (each as the T-bills)," Tan said, explaining yesterday's auction results.

"There is room to increase domestic borrowings because the liquidity is there, but there's no change in the borrowing program," he added.

Tenders for the 91-day bill totalled P5.77 billion as more than four times the P1 billion offered.

Bids for the 182-day bill totalled P13.4 billion or more than four times the P2.5 billion offer while those for the 364-day bill reached P4.93 billion, also drawing an oversubscription.

In June, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco said the yields on long-term Philippine debt paper were no longer expected to average lower this year compared to that in 2011 considering that the developments in Europe were making domestic liquidity conditions more uncertain.

From the Isetans of Batanes to the Tausi-tawians of Tawi-Tawi

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YOUR PARTNER IN TIME

Aboitiz Equity posts 16% profit growth

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures, the holding firm of the Aboitiz family, posted a 16-percent year-on-year increase in first-semester profit to P11.8 billion, on the back of a double-digit growth in the earnings contributions of its power and banking businesses.

Including a one-off item, AEV's core earnings for the first semester stood at P11.24 billion, higher by 16 percent year-on-year. For the second quarter alone, AEV's core net income stood at P7.7 billion, 7 percent year-on-year or 19.6 billion.

AEV's power business contributed the largest chunk or 70 percent of total, while the banking and food units contributed 17 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

Flagship Aboitiz Power Corp. ended the first semester with an income contribution of P9.4 billion, up from P8.3 billion a year ago. When adjusted for nonrecurring items, AP recorded a 17-percent year-on-year expansion in its earnings share to P8.9 billion.

For the first semester of 2012, AEV's banking arm contributed a share P2 billion in earnings, 37 percent higher from a year ago. This was fueled mainly by Union Bank of the Philippines whose earnings contribution of P1.8 billion expanded by 46 percent year-on-year on the back of higher net interest income and lower provisioning.

AEV featured a non-recurring gain of P926 million during the six-month period, up from the P169 million in one-off items in the same period last year.

The power business booked a net income of P5.2 billion during the semester as the gains from the redemption of shares made by its associate companies during the first quarter of 2012 were taken up by the high Fuel cost booked by its geothermal plants until the debt prepayments not incurred by the parent firm.

RCBC nets P3.01B

FUJI RENGO-LED Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. grew its first half net profit by 16 percent to P3.01 billion year-on-year due to a double-digit rise in noninterest earnings and a modest increase in net interest income.

This translated to an annualized return on average equity of 11.43 percent, the bank said in a statement.

Its operating income rose by 15.12 percent to P10.76 billion, while net interest income increased by 2.2 percent to P6.09 billion from last year's level. Noninterest income, mainly supported by trading gains, trust fees, service fees and commissions, jumped by 50.65 percent to P4 billion.

Consolidated resources grew by 17 percent to P201.45 billion from the level in the same period last year, boosted by a 16.5 percent expansion in net lending to P109.76 billion.

By loan segments, corporate loans grew by 24 percent, retail and medium enterprises by 19 percent and government loans, 28 percent. For every peso of deposits generated, the bank lent out about 77 centavos.

Total deposits reached P140.87 billion, of which corporate current accounts/savings account deposits accounted for P134.34 billion.

Despite competitive pressures, the bank said its net interest margin remained high at 3.8 percent. Doris C. Dumlao

Tritium Knowledge Center, Inc. in collaboration with Maynilad Water Academy will conduct:

"FUNDING YOUR WATER & SANITATION PROJECTS" SEMINAR

(Proposals That Get Funded!)

AUG. 10, 2012 (8am-5pm) New Horizon Hotel: 775 Boni Ave. Mandalayong City. Topics: Organizational (Relational dynamics with LGUs, Water Districts, Local Water Utilities, Water Service Providers & other Stakeholders); Technical (Upgrading, Modernization, Benchmarking, Capex/Opex), Financial (Viable tariff, etc.) and Funding Requirements. Speakers: Ms. Pedora Sandoval, AVP/Head, Maynilad Water Academy; Mr. Sandro Pineda, Chairman/President, Tritium Knowledge Center, Inc.; Engr. Cesar Villapez, Water and Sanitation Consultant; LANDBANK/Landbank; Engr. Romeo Sinumlacan, Project Dev. Officer, LANDBANK; Mr. Rustico Noli Cruz, Senior Mgr/Head, Energy & Water, Development Bank of the Philippines. Early Bird disc. deadline Aug. 17. Contact Tritium at: 570-9697; 637-4084; 0919-228-9771; 0919-228-5780; tritium@pldtdsl.net or lbcp.ph@yahoo.com. Maynilad at: 987-2343. LIMITED SEATS ONLY! REGISTER NOW!

Nickel Asia profit drops by 26% on LME dip

By Rae T. Dalmacio

NICKEL Asia Corp. said in an affordable net income base of amount to nonetary improved by 26 percent to P1.27 billion in the first six months of 2012 from P1.71 billion a year ago due to lower metal prices.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Nickel Asia said the volume of its shipments grew by 19 percent but the latest benchmark London Metal Exchange (LME) prices drew net profit down.

The total volume of nickel ore sold and delivered from the company's four operating mines in 2012 reached 5.62 million wet metric tons (WMT), up from 4.72 WMT in 2011.

Of the total volume of ore shipped during the first half, saprolite ore accounted for 1.7 million WMT while limonite ore accounted for 3.92 million WMT of which 1.67 million WMT were shipped to the Gural Bay by-thermo-ultrapic processing plant.

The corresponding figures for the same period in 2011 were 1.62 million WMT, 2.4 million WMT, and 1.31 million WMT, respectively.

The average realized exchange rate from January to June 2012 was P42.87 to the dollar.

The realized LME nickel price applicable to 2.37 million WMT of ore shipped in the first half averaged $8.66 per pound of payable nickel, as against $13.46 per pound in the same period last year.

SBC thrift banking unit opens

SECURITY Bank Savings (SBS), formerly Premiere Development Bank, recently opened its doors to prime business.

The former Premiere Development Bank was acquired by Security Bank Corp. in a bid to broaden its branch network, scale up its loan portfolio and expand its customer base.

It was renamed SBS and opened for commercial operations after receiving the go-ahead from the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Combined with the people and resources of its parent company, SBS's thrift banking expected to provide a wider range of consumer and retail products and an enhanced level of customer service.

SBS aims to attract clients by offering banking services that are easy to access, affordable and fit to their needs. The bank will focus on serving the consumer retail segment, and small and mid-sized businesses.

SBS currently has 12 network of 20 branches strategically located in Metro Manila, Cavite, Batangas, Bulacan, Laguna, Rizal and Quezon provinces.

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MUSTARD Seed SYSTEMS CORPORATION

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region X
DIVISION OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
City of Malaybalay

DepEd

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Misamis Oriental thru its Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) intends to undertake the procurement of the following projects:

Item No.	Item Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Location of Project
	SDO-MOR CLASSROOMS		
1	Imbo ES, Malaybalay	1,000,000.00	30 cal.
	Mahayahay Elementary School	1,000,000.00	30 cal.
		2,000,000.00	
2	Lindaban ES, Manolo	1,000,000.00	30 cal.
	Lindaban ES, Pangantucan	1,000,000.00	30 cal.
		2,000,000.00	
3	Dalirigan, Sitio Dalirigan	500,000.00	15 cal.
	Dalirigan ES, Pangantucan	500,000.00	15 cal.
		1,000,000.00	
4	Kalagyan ES, Lantapan	500,000.00	15 cal.
	Kalagyan ES, Lantapan	500,000.00	15 cal.
		1,000,000.00	
5	Bonbon ES, Manolo	500,000.00	15 cal.
	Bonbon ES, Manolo	500,000.00	15 cal.
		1,000,000.00	
6	Lilod - ES, Malaybalay	500,000.00	15 cal.
	Lilod ES, Malaybalay	500,000.00	15 cal.
		1,000,000.00	
7	Kapatagan ES, San Fernando	500,000.00	15 cal.
	Kapatagan ES, San Fernando	500,000.00	15 cal.
		1,000,000.00	
8	Lumbo - ES, Malaybalay	500,000.00	15 cal.
	Lumbo ES, Malaybalay	500,000.00	15 cal.
		1,000,000.00	
9	Kapatagan ES, San Fernando	500,000.00	15 cal.
	Kapatagan ES, Malaybalay	500,000.00	15 cal.
		1,000,000.00	
10	Kalagyan ES, San Fernando	500,000.00	15 cal.
11	Manalog ES, Malaybalay	500,000.00	15 cal.
12	Lumbo ES, Malaybalay	500,000.00	15 cal.

1. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/nationals, corporations, partnerships or associations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and duly licensed by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and registered with the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) with the following eligibility category: Small B and above.
2. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Bidding are open to all contractors duly accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and registered with the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents, not later than the submission of their bid.
3. All participants shall undergo Eligibility Assessment and Screening (for Security, Performance Capability, Financial Capability, Experience, Equipment, Key Personnel, Track Record) and Submission of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).
4. The schedule of activities is hereto, as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Time/Venue
Issuance and Availability of Bid Documents	August 07, 2012 BAC Office, 2nd Flr., Administration Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Pre-bid Conference	August 08, 2012, 9:30 a.m. @ NMP-ALTS Files Conference Room, 2nd Flr., Administration Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	August 09, 2012, 9:30 a.m. @ NMP-ALTS Files BAC Office, 2nd Flr., Administration Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Opening of Bids	August 09, 2012, 9:30 a.m. @ NMP-ALTS Files Conference Room, 2nd Flr., Administration Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Bid Evaluation	Three-(3)-day for its evaluation and post-qualification
Post-Qualification	Within seven (7) calendar days from the date of Opening of Bids & Eligibility (NMP) or R.A. No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act"
Notice of Award	

5. Bid documents may be obtained by bidders from NMP-BAC Secretariat at BAC Office, 2nd Flr., Admin. Bldg., National Maritime Polytechnic, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P3,500.00) to the NMP Cashier.
6. There will be no transportation or charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents, not later than the submission of their bid.
7. The National Maritime Polytechnic reserves the right to reject any or all bids in part or in whole, waive any formalities therein and accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(SGD.)
GRACE MARIE T. ANDAL
BAC Chairperson

(PS: July 31, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL MARITIME POLYTECHNIC (NMP)
Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro, 9000
Tel Nos. (088) 857-1100 / (088) 857-1101

INVITATION TO BID

The National Maritime Polytechnic, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible contractors and manufacturers/suppliers to participate in the following:

Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Amount of Bid Documents
Supply and Delivery of Various Maritime Training Equipment - Welding No. 2012-08-01		
Lot I – Supply and Delivery of 10 Units of Plasma Cutting Machine	P500,000.00	P1,000.00
Lot II – Supply and Delivery of 10 Units Shielded Metal Arc Welding Machine (SMAW)	P400,000.00	P1,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Bidding are open to all contractors duly accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and registered with the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents, not later than the submission of their bid.

All participants shall undergo Eligibility Assessment and Screening (for Security, Performance Capability, Financial Capability, Experience, Equipment, Key Personnel, Track Record) and Submission of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is hereto, as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Time/Venue
Issuance and Availability of Bid Documents	August 7-20, 2012 BAC Office, 2nd Flr., Admin. Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Pre-bid Conference	August 08, 2012, 9:30 a.m. @ NMP-ALTS Files Conference Room, 2nd Flr., Administration Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	August 09, 2012, 9:30 a.m. @ NMP-ALTS Files BAC Office, 2nd Flr., Administration Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Opening of Bids	August 09, 2012, 9:30 a.m. @ NMP-ALTS Files Conference Room, 2nd Flr., Administration Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Bid Evaluation	Three-(3)-day for its evaluation and post-qualification
Post-Qualification	Within seven (7) calendar days from the date of Opening of Bids & Eligibility (NMP) or R.A. No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act"
Notice of Award	

Bid documents may be obtained by bidders from NMP-BAC Secretariat at BAC Office, 2nd Flr., Admin. Bldg., National Maritime Polytechnic, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P3,500.00) to the NMP Cashier.

There will be no transportation or charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents, not later than the submission of their bid.

The National Maritime Polytechnic reserves the right to reject any or all bids in part or in whole, waive any formalities therein and accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(SGD.)
GRACE MARIE T. ANDAL
BAC Chairperson

(PS: August 7, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region X
DIVISION OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
City of Malaybalay

DepEd

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC), Regional Office X, Cagayan de Oro City, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), intends to undertake the procurement of the following projects: **Supply and Delivery of Various Computer Units and Accessories for the Regional Office X and Philippine Normal University Mindanao Region (PNU-R), Bids and Awards Committee of the NETRC and Philippine Normal University Mindanao Region (PNU-R), Bids and Awards Committee of the PNU-R, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental** under the Regional Office X and PNU-R's Annual Budget for CY 2012 and Philippine Normal University Mindanao Region Income Generating Project (IGP) CY 2012 under Banking Arrangements, Bonds and Securities.

Package No.	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	a. Printing, packaging, labeling and delivery of PNU-R Test and Scholarship Kits b. Printing, packaging, labeling and delivery of PNU-R Test and Scholarship Kits c. Warehousing of PNU-R Scholarship Kits	Php 2,000,000.00
2	a. Printing, packaging, labeling and delivery of NETRC Test and Scholarship Kits b. Warehousing of NETRC Scholarship Kits	Php 2,000,000.00
	TOTAL	Php 4,000,000.00

Bank Issued Standard Implementing Bank: National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC)

Bank and Branch: Central Agricultural Bank (CAB), FT 2012

Banking Date: September 2012

The Department of Education (DepEd) Central Office, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites bids for the above-mentioned project. Bidders may bid for any or both packages.

Banking shall have a single project contract that is available to the project, within the last five (5) years from the opening of bids, equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC of the contract(s) being bid.

Banking is restricted to Filipino citizens/nationals, partnerships, or cooperatives duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and duly licensed by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and registered with the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents, not later than the submission of their bid.

Banking is open to all qualified contractors duly accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and registered with the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents, not later than the submission of their bid.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the Cashier's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, Capitol Compound, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City. Bidding Documents may be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents, not later than the submission of their bid.

The schedule of activities is hereto, as follows:

Activities	Date and Time	Venue
Issuance of Bidding Documents	August 1 - 31, 2012	Cashier's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, Capitol Compound, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City
Project Conference	August 16, 2012, 10:00 a.m.	NMP Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, DepEd Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City
Submission and Opening of Bids	August 27, 2012, 10:00 a.m.	NMP Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, DepEd Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City

The Bidding Documents may be requested earlier and released on the above date when the complete payment is made. In case the Bidding Documents are sent by mail, the bidder shall send a request by letter or fax and pay the cost of the Bidding Documents plus postage. The envelope shall be properly labeled with the name of the bidder and address. Only bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

Prospective bidders have the option to inspect the Bidding Documents at the address and website of the Bidding Documents as follows: the PhilGEPS website (www.philgeps.gov) the NETRC website (www.netrc.edu.ph) and the PNU-R website (www.pnu.edu.ph). The Bidding Documents may be viewed also at the Cashier's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, Capitol Compound, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City.

The Bid Bulletin/s shall be posted on the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents, not later than the submission of their bid.

The DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare failure of bidding, not award the contract, or award the bidding process without bidding in accordance with Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

(SGD.)
FRANCISCO M. ANDOLA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PS: August 1, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL MARITIME POLYTECHNIC (NMP)
Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro, 9000
Tel Nos. (088) 857-1100 / (088) 857-1101

INVITATION TO BID

The National Maritime Polytechnic, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible contractors and manufacturers/suppliers to participate in the following:

Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Amount of Bid Documents
Supply and Delivery of Various Maritime Training Equipment - Welding No. 2012-08-01		
Lot I – Supply and Delivery of 10 Units of Plasma Cutting Machine	P500,000.00	P1,000.00
Lot II – Supply and Delivery of 10 Units Shielded Metal Arc Welding Machine (SMAW)	P400,000.00	P1,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Bidding are open to all contractors duly accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and registered with the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents, not later than the submission of their bid.

All participants shall undergo Eligibility Assessment and Screening (for Security, Performance Capability, Financial Capability, Experience, Equipment, Key Personnel, Track Record) and Submission of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is hereto, as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Time/Venue
Issuance and Availability of Bid Documents	August 7-20, 2012 BAC Office, 2nd Flr., Admin. Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Pre-bid Conference	August 08, 2012, 9:30 a.m. @ NMP-ALTS Files Conference Room, 2nd Flr., Administration Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	August 09, 2012, 9:30 a.m. @ NMP-ALTS Files BAC Office, 2nd Flr., Administration Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Opening of Bids	August 09, 2012, 9:30 a.m. @ NMP-ALTS Files Conference Room, 2nd Flr., Administration Bldg. NMP Complex, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Bid Evaluation	Three-(3)-day for its evaluation and post-qualification
Post-Qualification	Within seven (7) calendar days from the date of Opening of Bids & Eligibility (NMP) or R.A. No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act"
Notice of Award	

Bid documents may be obtained by bidders from NMP-BAC Secretariat at BAC Office, 2nd Flr., Admin. Bldg., National Maritime Polytechnic, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P3,500.00) to the NMP Cashier.

There will be no transportation or charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents, not later than the submission of their bid.

The National Maritime Polytechnic reserves the right to reject any or all bids in part or in whole, waive any formalities therein and accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(SGD.)
GRACE MARIE T. ANDAL
BAC Chairperson

(PS: August 7, 2012)

Rights of Women and Employers' Obligations

THE EMPLOYERS CONFEDERation of the Philippines (ECOP) is set to conduct a symposium on Rights of Working Women and the Corresponding Obligations of Employers.

To be held on August 10 this year at the ECOP Boardroom, Makati City, the whole day symposium will provide updates on Safe Paternity Leave Act (R.A. 8972), Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004 (R.A. 9262), Magna Carta of Women (R.A. 9710), Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act of 2009 (R.A. 10028), and Employment of Night Workers (R.A. 10151).

Among the resource persons are Catherine Pasado, director, Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); Casandra Ubalenzuela, Legal Service, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); Evelyn Macaspac of the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC)-DOLE, and lawyer Norma Legarda, Jr., director general, ECOP.

For further details and course outline, you may call 890-4697 or 897-5295 loc. 116 or e-mail ms.tadeo@ecop.org.ph.

NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds
More Classifieds on pages...
Comelec.....A22
Province of Zamboanga.....A22
Ilocos Norte Electric.....A22
Bohol II Electric Coop.....A23
GSIS.....A23

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

BOOKKEEPER

[illegible]

JOINT VENTURE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

[illegible]

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

[illegible]

FOR LEASE

[illegible]

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

2010 BMW 730D
BLACK ST KNS
HARDLY USED
09175263610

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

[illegible]

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

[illegible]

WANTED TO RENT

[illegible]

BUY & SELL ALL KINDS OF
ROLEX
WATCHES
[illegible]

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
City of Tabaco
-oOo-
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The City Government of Tabaco through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective contractors to participate in the bid for the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and PhilGEPS to apply for the following:

Name of Project/Location	ABC	Price of Bid Docs/Lot	Time Duration
1. Prof. Nestor Mole Passageway Bridge City Hotel Plaza, Brgy. Poblacion, Tabaco City	P19,616,116.17	P15,000.00	150 cal. days
2. Prof. Road Concreting @ Magapanas Road, Hindalmon St. to Tinos St. (Incl. Circumferential Road), Brgy. Poblacion, Tabaco City (1.7 Kms.) & 4m (w.) Kalsa	P3,000,000.00	P15,000.00	150 cal. days
3. Prof. Const. of Two (2) Storey Hollow Blocks Building @ Brgy. Cabasan Elementary School, Brgy. Bagacay, Tabaco City	P4,640,000.00	P5,000.00	180 cal. days

Prospective bidders should possess valid PCABC license appropriate for the contract to be undertaken, completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and must be a Philippine Good Employer (based on the PhilGEPS). Failure to submit all the requirements mentioned above will result to disqualification. The BAC will conduct pre-qualification of the invited contractors only.

All participants undergo to Eligibility Assessment and Screening (for Security, Performance Capability, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification) and Submission of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Pre-bidding Conference will be on August 20, 2012, 10:00a.m. at the Administrator's Office, Palm Building and be on staggered basis, strictly observe time and venue.

Invited contractors or prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Office of the Bids Department/PMO, tel. no. (052) 320-4466 or (052) 321-4099 upon payment of non-refundable amount of the Bid and Bid documents to the City Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit their Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address.

Deadline for the submission of Bid Offers on August 30, 2012.

The City Government of Tabaco reserves its responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) HAROLD R. ESPINOSA
City Mayor

(PS: July 31, 2012)

Dispatches International is expanding and short-term operations for an anticipated four-year (USAID) program called "Integrity Investments Initiative" ("I3") that will facilitate higher economic growth by reducing the costs of doing business and trade through the promotion of open and fair competition. The components of the program will focus on (1) increasing the responsiveness of the Philippines' efforts/entities in addressing anticorruption laws by improving the legal environment for detecting corruption and the effectiveness of managing investigations and prosecutions; (2) reduce opportunities for public sector corruption; and (3) improve corporate governance in private business and government corporations.

We seek specialists with interest and prior experience in one or more of the following fields: anti-corruption capacity building, public administration, ICT, anti-corruption legislation, public finance, corporate governance, enforcement procedures, public outreach and communications, monitoring and evaluation, and training.

Qualifications:

- Minimum 5 years experience on a USAID or similar project preferred
- Advanced degree in higher (law, social sciences, economics, public administration, business or a related field)
- Demonstrated technical familiarity monitoring or evaluating projects in anti-corruption, governance, rule of law, public enforcement, improving corporate governance, public sector corruption, or similar
- Familiarity with and/or experience working in Asia is preferable, but not required
- Fluency in written and spoken English required

Please send your electronic submissions to vacancies@dispatchesint.com by August 10, 2012, indicating primary field of expertise in the subject line of your e-mail. Please send a cover letter and resume. Finalists will be contacted.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 807 Intramuros St., Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
MOORE CORP. 10F Ayala Life-FGU Center, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Jungkwan Ryoo Korean	Manager
JD GLOBAL MARKETING INC. 17/A Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	William Lucius Smith American	Managing Director
MULTILANE PHARMACEUTICALS PHILIPPINES, INC. Ayala Life-FGU Center, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Vikas Jolasi Indian	Chief Financial Officer
SACOBOSKI&T'L GROUP, INC. 1107 Solaris-Ross Bldg., Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila	Hongbing Lin Chinese	Data Analyst
COWAL PHILIPPINES INC. 2607 Robinson Equitable Tower, ADB Ave cor. Poveda, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Dae Ho Kim Korean	National Sales Manager
MITSUBISHI CORP. 16/F Lepanto Bldg., Ayala cor. Makati Ave, Makati City	Kiyoshi Sakagi Japanese	Treasurer and Accounting Department Manager
MIZUHO CORPORATE BANK LTD. - MANILA BRANCH 26/F Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas cor. Valero St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Nobuaki Ito Kiyotaki Sakagi Japanese	Assistant Manager, Japanese Corporate Banking Department
ROHM ELECTRIC VEHICLE MANUFACTURING, INC. 151 P. Javier St., Bagumbayan, Brgy. 185, Caloocan City	Jia Dai Chinese	Sales Manager
SANOFI-AVENTIS INC. 2/F Felcris Bldg., 139 V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Christophe Edouard Rial French	Commercial Officer/Business Manager
DELOITTE & TOUCHE KOMBULTING GROUP(S) PTE LTD. 6/F Pacific Bldg., 7 Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Sitharthan Indian	Senior Consultant
HYERI AIR SERVICES INC. 7 Seed Street, Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City	Kwon Jung Korean	Passenger Service Staff
NEMPAT SERVICES LLC 9/F Cerpont Bldg., Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Chandni Aggarwal Indian	Assistant Manager - Finance
NEMPAT SERVICES LLC 9/F Cerpont Bldg., Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Manoj Kashyap Indian	Trainer - HR
XEROX SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. Rockwell Business Center, Ideacon Compound, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Pauline Xiao Chinese	Executive Operations (Mandarin Language)
G-HUAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC. 1639 S. Revesencio St., Binondo, Manila	Yingying Ma Chinese	Marketing Sales
G-HUAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC. 1639 S. Revesencio St., Binondo, Manila	Shibiao Ren Chinese	Marketing Sales
GLE GROUP PHILIPPINES, INC. 6/F Tower 2 The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Ligian Liang Chinese	Mainland Language Customer Service Representative
GLE GROUP PHILIPPINES, INC. 6/F Tower 2 The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Rubbin Jonathan Setiyadi Indonesian	Sports Trader
FIRST SOURCE SOLUTIONS LIMITED 16/F Firstsource Bldg., Plaza IT, Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Vikas Kumar Jaiswal Indian	Manager - Operations
LEXUS ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Bobby Farid Pratiwalle Indonesian	Indonesian language Customer Support Staff
SKY ARBOR TECHNOLOGY, INC. 16/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Dawling Jiang Chinese	Mandarin Sales Officer
DAKUDON CAPITAL LIMITED 31/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jianyan Lin Chinese	Chinese-language Customer Service Officer
DAKUDON CAPITAL LIMITED 31/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tang Lan Chinese	Chinese-language Customer Service Officer
DAKUDON CAPITAL LIMITED 31/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jinkai Su Chinese	Chinese-language Customer Service Officer
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Alan Kuong Hong Malaysian	Chinese/Mandarin Language Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Hendry Indonesian	Indonesian Language Customer Support Staff
MAYVAR INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 35/F RCBC Plaza Tower 1, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hsiao-Yueh Liu Taiwanese	Telemarketing Manager (Mandarin Speaking)
MAYVAR INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 35/F RCBC Plaza Tower 1, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Li Ao Chinese	Customer Service Representative
MAYVAR INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 35/F RCBC Plaza Tower 1, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ruyuan Wang Chinese	Customer Service Representative
MAYVAR INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 35/F Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Feng Yue Chinese	Customer Service Representative
GRN BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ku Ah Eng Malaysian	Bi-Lingual Speaking Data Analyst Executive
GRN BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Koh Chen Kee Malaysian	Bi-Lingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
GRN BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Quoc Hinh Quang Vietnamese	Bi-Lingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
GRN BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Chung Meng Siew Malaysian	Bi-Lingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
GRN BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kai Seong Woon Malaysian	Bi-Lingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
GRN BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wen Ying Chang Malaysian	Bi-Lingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
CHEUK WAH TECHNOLOGY, INC. Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Shengyang Sun Chinese	IT Staff
CHEUK WAH TECHNOLOGY, INC. Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yi Ni Lai Chinese	Customer Service Representative
CHEUK WAH TECHNOLOGY, INC. Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Weihua Chen Chinese	IT Staff
CHEUK WAH TECHNOLOGY, INC. Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jian Wang Chinese	IT Staff
CHEUK WAH TECHNOLOGY, INC. Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Xiaolong Ge Chinese	IT Staff
CHEUK WAH TECHNOLOGY, INC. Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yin Long Lee Chinese	Customer Service Representative
CHEUK WAH TECHNOLOGY, INC. Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yangsheng Zhang Chinese	IT Staff
CHEUK WAH TECHNOLOGY, INC. Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ji Rui Lai Chinese	Customer Service Representative
NEW SONAL TRADING CORPORATION Unit 209 Cardinal Building, Pedro Gil St., cor. Pilar St., Paco, Manila	Kamaljeet Kaur Indian	Manager
CHEUK WAH TECHNOLOGY, INC. Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jiabao Zhang Chinese	Customer Service Representative
SARA BALAJI MERCHANDISING & TRADING CORPORATION Rm. 214 Medilines Plaza Bldg., Aviation St., Malate, Manila	Manpreet Kaur Indian	Supervisor
GALIB KALAY TRADING CORP. 460C Crestmall St., Sampaloc, Manila	Sarjit Singh Bansal Indian	Purchasing Officer
BEST RECIPE FOOD CORPORATION Lot 2 Passer Drive, Brgy. 9th, Nbh., Parañaque City	Woei Sion Ee Chinese	Chef Cook
BEST RECIPE FOOD CORPORATION Lot 2 Passer Drive, Brgy. 9th, Nbh., Parañaque City	Yongheng Feng Chinese	Chef Cook
BEST RECIPE FOOD CORPORATION Lot 2 Passer Drive, Brgy. 9th, Nbh., Parañaque City	Yongqiang Yang Chinese	Chef Cook
SAKSHI TRADING CORP. 108 Wood Avenue, Sucat, Muntinlupa City	Tajinder Singh Indian	Sales Representative
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Dianti Iswara Indonesian	Indonesian Language Customer Support Staff

ERRATUM

In the ad material of notice of filing of Application for Alien Employment Permits published on July 8, 2012, the name of the applicant of BLUE OCEAN GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY INC. should have been read as Kuong Sing Sdn Bhd as published while in the application published on July 24, 2012, the position of the application of Kuong Sing of SHENGDA NONFERROUS AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED should have been read as Administrative Manager and not as publisher.

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN N. MACARAIG, CESO III
Regional Director

OBITUARIES

To our beloved Nanay

Lydia Ligon Icasiano

DEATH NOTICE

RESTITUTO REYES LERMA

June 08, 1943 – August 5, 2012

Julita Ilustre Espinosa

BUSINESS

Power Situation Outlook
for Tuesday, 7 August 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Forecast Capacity (MW)	8,816	1,737	1,037
Forecast Peak (MW)	8,883	1,434	1,221
Reserve (MW)	-1,731	303	-184

Interest rates seen to stay low up to '15

By Michelle V Rama

THE ENVIRONMENT of moderate inflation and low interest rates the Philippines currently enjoys may extended for two to three more years, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has said.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday told reporters that latest estimates by monetary authorities showed that inflation may settle between 3 and 4 percent in 2014 to 2015.

For this year and next year, the central bank expects inflation to settle within the 3- to-5-percent range. As of the first half of this year, inflation averaged at 3 percent, keeping the full-year targeted rolling averages.

"Given what is happening in the global economy and its commodity prices, and considering macroeconomic management [in the Philippines], we do not expect a pickup in the inflation rate," Tetangco said.

He said that should inflation rate indeed remain benign, the BSP would have the flexibility to keep interest rates low.

Currently, the central bank's key policy rates, which influence commercial bank lending rates, stand at historic lows of 3.75 and 5.75 percent, respectively.

Because of the still lackluster growth of the United States and the prolonged debt crisis in the euro zone, demand for goods and services from these economies remains weak. As such, prices of commodities traded globally are rising only moderately, if not commanding. Oil prices, for instance, have remained soft this year.

Given declining prices of oil imports and the moderate increase in prices of other imported goods, increase in the overall consumer prices in the Philippines is expected to stay modest, Tetangco said. This trend is expected to continue over the next two to three years partly because global economic problems are not expected to be solved soon.

The BSP chief also said significant liquidity within the Philippine economy is also expected to help keep inflation benign over the next few years.

On one hand, he said, the Philippine banking system continues to enjoy growing profits and resources. As such, they are likely to keep extending more loans to businesses, thereby leading growth in supply of goods and services.

On the other Tetangco added, low interest rates will encourage firms to secure bank loans to finance their investment plans.

Tetangco also said the BSP is prepared to adjust monetary policy as necessary to ensure inflation in the country remains manageable even as the economy continues to grow.

Meralco accredits contractors to assist customers

Chosen providers carry best practices, badge of excellence

A logo for contractors that Meralco customers can trust.

A elite group of service providers recently received Meralco's badge of excellence and integrity as they were inducted as Accredited Meralco Contractors (AMC) to help customers get electricity faster and manage their power needs better.

Meralco officers joined guests from various industry groups to witness the inaugural induction which was the highlight of the AMC program launch at the Meralco Multipurpose Hall. AMC is an accreditation program that institutionalizes Meralco's best practices among energy service providers, contractors, developers and designers who are endorsed by Meralco.

Bienvenido Junior AVP Jose Ramon A. Reyes, who is Head of the AME Business Group, said the AMC program seeks to provide customers the highest quality service by empowering the contractors as they align business processes with Meralco.

"Importante para sa mga kumpanya sa ating mga panahon na ngayon dito. At the same time, they don't want to be surprised by substandard work, unplanned expenses and costly rework," he said.

"With AMCs coordinating with Meralco, nakahanggang ang mga customer na maitiis ang trabaho at aligned to as highest technical and safety standards," he added.

Meralco Senior AVP Ferdinand O. Geluz, who is Head of Home & Micro Business Central Area, explained that AMCs take responsibility for processing requirements and permits as well as technical needs in service applications.

"Dahil experts sila sa industriya at aligned sila sa business process at standards ng Meralco, mas mabilis na ang proseso sa pagaapply ng kuryente para sa small businesses at maging sa bahay man ng customers," he said.

Before, customers needed to deal with a lot of people and offices in processing their requirements for a Meralco service application. It was a tedious and time-consuming effort especially for customers with projects in multiple locations.

"Ngayon, mas hands-free na ang proseso ng pag-apply dahil yung accredited contractor na kunin ng customer ay nakasunod na lang standard process sa buong Meralco franchise," Geluz noted.

Contractors who are selected for the AMC program are also provided continuing training by Meralco, which includes sharing of industry best practices that will help accredited contractors achieve their full potential.

Publito "Lito" Tren, president of Society of Philippine Electromechanical Constructors and Suppliers, Inc., (SPECS), stressed the importance of conduct training for contractors and cited Meralco for up building it.

An AMC checks out the new kit which includes a manual, a certificate of accreditation and marketing collaterals.

"Dahil nanasaksihan nila sa training ng Meralco at nanasunod sa standards, mabilisan ang mga customers na ito-hahatid ang gawa ng AMCs. Importante na lagtas ang isbat sa degrees na maaaring idulot ng sub-standard na service entrance at house wiring," he said.

Meralco cooperated with respected institutions such as IPTCS, the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines (IIEE), and the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) in launching the AMC program as part of the distribution utility's commitment to the public tasked serving the most reliable electricity service to customers.

For more information about Accredited Meralco Contractors, a complete listing is available at the Meralco website at www.meralco.com.ph/AMC. Customers may also contact the Meralco Call Center at 16211 for residential accounts or 1622-5263 for business accounts.

Meralco Ambassador of Light Ms. Shamcey Supsup congratulates newly accredited Meralco contractors.

Meralco executives are joined by key officers of the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines (IIEE) and Society of Philippine Electromechanical Constructors and Suppliers, Inc., (SPECS).

DOTC readies ₱160-M airport upgrade plan

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT has approved P160 million worth of upgrades for three key provincial airports as part of ongoing efforts to improve countrywide infrastructure.

In full interview published Monday, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) said the civil works for airports in San Vicente, Palawan; Iloilo; Aklan; and Surigao, Tawi-Tawi, would include mainly airside development and terminal facility improvements.

"These airport development projects are in support of the huge potentials of tourism in the country's economy, and to the most important goal of creating jobs and livelihood opportunities for the people," the DOTC said.

The country's tourism sector continues to boom. From January to May of this year, visitor arrivals rose almost 14 percent to more than 1.6 million tourist arrivals compared with over 1.5 million visitors for the same period in 2011.

Last year, a record 3.7 million foreign tourists visited the country, and all indications show that the country is on its way to achieving the projected 4.6 million tourist arrivals by yearend.

A big chunk of the budget for this batch of airport upgrades will go to the new airport in San Vicente. About ₱72.35 million is allocated for the completion of a runway extension, concrete paving of the runway, and full obstruction removal in the municipality in Palawan.

This represents another phase in the airport development in San Vicente. A month ago, the DOTC also announced bidding for the construction of a new passenger terminal building in the same area.

San Vicente is highly touted as the next big tourist destination in the Philippines, the DOTC said. Apart from its proximity to El Nido, San Vicente also boasts of a 14-kilometer stretch of white sand beach.

About ₱93.9 million was earmarked for the Aklan International Airport Development Project, one of the busiest airports in the country.

LIFESTYLE Wellness
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

CAMILLE Lee Mangaling with partner BE Herrera

There's a science to successful relationships

By Anne R. Jambora

By understanding personality types and aiming for better communication, you can relate better to coworkers, friends, family and even lovers, say these professional trainers

YOU CAN make anyone fall in love with you. Anyone.

It is, in fact, easy to do—as long as you understand micro-behavior and nonverbal language, identify individual personality and modeling and know how to mirror their words and beliefs, that is. You're on there is a science to the reading still.

Camille Lee Mangaling, "chief goddess" (president) of Transformation, said it's about the process we are most familiar with—ourselves—talking to someone who's interesting can concept. "Do you say, 'We are so the same!' And isn't that the backbone of every relationship?"

Transformation, said Mangaling "helps individuals and organizations through motivation, empowerment and tools to ignite possibilities using micro-trainings. We utilize fun and relatable experiences to create better relationships at work and at home. We are also called corporate cheerleaders."

Mangaling is one of the most in-demand trainers in the country. She is also the only Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) trainer and to only certifying authority in the Philippines. NLP an approach in personal development, psychotherapy and communication, is the method employed in Transformation's program.

"NLP is about programming yourself to have better communication, and get better output from the people around you by communicating the right way," she said.

Programs include The Empowered Mind-set, Image Overhaul, Stress Management, Communicating for Results, The Money Equation, and Influence Collaborative Experimental Simulation.

THERE'S A SCIENCE >>

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPIN BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY WIN LANOR

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVEBOMBS BY ELIZABETH HOANGLED

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE BY RYAN ABRERA

A RIKO MACHINE
SIGH
SIGH
SIGH

There's a science to successful relationships

From page C1

(Anne). They also have tailored programs for the entire team, such as Personality Calibration, Service Excellence, Team Building and Renewed Up Sales, as well as those for the boss, such as Coaching for Success, Organization Development, Business Planning and Retention Services, Power Leadership and Management.

Back in the game

While how to make someone fall in love with you, astutely speaking, may not be among its programs, learning about the four different types of people and their modalities can sure help you get back in the game—whether in love, at work (edit: your boss and coworkers), with friends or with the family.

MLP was created in the '70s by Richard Bandler and John Grinder to address problems such as phobias, trauma, depression and learning disorders. (Mastering trained under Grinder.) MLP's approach has since been adopted in workshops and seminars.

"[NLP uses] sensory-like phobia, think of what it can do to someone who is simply lazy to work, someone who only lacks motivation to become successful. There is usually the main concern for many companies," said HR Heaven, the former child actor who's now regional director of Transition.

"Happy employees give more results. We have employees who were made for less. They just don't know, and they don't communicate[]. You don't even have to ask," Mangaoang added.

Pillosi you understand the people around you, starting or fixing with their favorite music. That's because you would be able to identify the approach you need to get what you want, like how to get someone to become productive at work, for instance.

The four different types of personalities in NLP's version of the four temperaments in psychology. There's the Builder, or the choleric in psychology. Partners, or the sanguine, another group. They like to get to the bottom of the story, are very impatient, and don't like micro-managing. They stand across you, skip the bugs and talk fast.

Next is the Peacock (the sanguine in psychology). These are notable, pretty, and three people. They do not have a concept of potential space, so they can be too much for the introvert. They like to ask for a conversation, too. A Peacock would ask everyone if they want to go, say, to Tagaytay, as opposed to the Banker who will ask everyone they are going to Tagaytay.

The third type is the Owl (the melancholic in psychology). Owls are compliant. They always have, and follow, an itinerary. They are the organizers, arranging books alphabetically, for instance, or color-coding storage boxes for easy identification. They speak with a monotonous tone and are generally resistant to change. They don't like spontaneity, either.

Easily influenced

The last one is the Dolphin (the phlegmatic in psychology). These are the people who cure about loyalty and relationships. They speak politely, but are easily influenced by other personalities they like. If they like a financial, for instance, they become financially as well. They adapt easily.

Everyone is usually a combination of two types of personalities. "The old style of profiling people is putting them in a box; this is what you are until you die. In NLP, a person is dynamic. You assume different personalities at different times, at work," she said.

Aside from personalities, there are three kinds of modalities one should identify: visual, auditory and kinesthetic. Modality is how people learn and absorb information; personality is how they relate.

Auditory people need to hear "I love you" or "I'm sorry" for instance. When buying a cell phone, they ask people around about the model they want. Visual people have to see it. Before purchasing a phone, they have already researched it on the Web or read parts of it manual.

Kinesthetic types like to touch. They buy a phone and father with it, and figure out how it works along the way. They like massage, shooting, cooking, said Mangaoang.

"An auditory partner has a loud voice and likes to talk a lot, for example. A visual partner likes to see the results done. A kinesthetic partner likes for you to hold on to," she said.

Mangaoang said NLP could change your relationship with your family, coworkers, boss and friends. "The work that we do is not about what we get, but what we become," she said.

Pantheism, a Filipino company, has branches in Singapore and Hong Kong. Contact them at tel 4270120 or 4270120; visit their office at 8/F Unit 806, Magnolia 2 Bldg., 206 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Q.C. or check out www.transpacific.com.ph

NLP is about learning how the mind is programmed by conditioning

CAMILLE Lee Mangaoang: "Be open each that works for you will not work for all. If you are able to approach them in a way that responds well to their personality and modality, they will be happier and be more productive."

MA HERMINIA: "It's about maximizing how you communicate with people. We're like hotels or clothes—some say do not machine wash, or do not bleach, or dry clean only."

Seminars on ayurveda and homeopathy set

THE AGE of Aquarius Center begins to serve as Alternative Holistic Healing Intensive with "Ayurveda: Healing Family" on Aug. 18, 2-6 p.m. at 98 Matalog St., Quezon City and "Homeopathy: Alternative Healing Medicine for Various Complaints" on Aug. 26, same time and venue.

Ayurvedic practitioner Ida Ladrera discusses 10 common herbs used most frequently in the practice of this 5,000-year-old Indian healing tradition and the 50 common diseases she has helped alleviate while practicing in the Philippines, such as anemia, asthma, diabetes, gout and joint pains, using healing foods and a balanced ayurvedic diet.

Langaine homeopathic practitioner and naturopathic doctor Rima Abad Lagdameo discusses homeopathic remedies for major organs, women's reproductive system complaints, senior citizens' concerns, and those of special children.

For more information, call Melanie Bilag, center director, at tel. 7262206 or Ildefonso Salazar, 0917-5250347.

Will our desire for each other ever be fulfilled?

I RECEIVED very good feedback, but also more questions, on last month's one-day seminar I conducted on Sunderance, Karma and Reincarnation. Many participants expressed profound insights during the course, some of which I only found out several days after I started.

One participant, named Dina (not her real name), wrote to me with questions she failed to ask during the course.

"Thank you for your enlightening seminar on Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation," began Dina. "I have always found these three topics interesting since my high school years.

"During the group past life hypnotic regression, I really couldn't tell if what I saw was real or just a product of my imagination. The images were fleeting, but what I remember was the feeling I had when I saw them.

"In the first regression, I was a female adult with blond hair, wearing a white dress, and was barefoot.

"In the second regression, I was myself in what looks like a drawing of some sort, with trees around me. From a distance, I would see a figure. I knew it was a man. He looked like he was waiting—waiting for me.

"In the next scene, we were riding on a horse. I was holding still flowers which he gave me. What I felt while I was in that hypnotic state was it was our secret meeting place.

"In the second regression with a male or lover, I was female again. I was a model or an figurine posed on someone of high social standing.

"There was a man, he was the same man I saw in the first regression, but this time, he was a soldier or a guard protecting the queen... The feeling I had was we were supposed to meet, but we could not fulfill our forbidden love, as a maid to the queen, my social status was higher than his.

"In the present lifetime, I met a man who is married. The same feeling of strong attraction was there but we could not act on it because he is married. At present this man is a Hindu who is from the same caste/soldier caste. A few months back he told me I should not feel too much, as our feelings might not get fulfilled in our next lifetime.

"It seems to me we have always had this strong pull toward each other in several of our past lives, but it has yet to be fulfilled. Has he right when he said I should not feel too much for him? Is this the way to handle our situation, or that the next lifetime will not be the same? Will our desires ever be fulfilled?"

Dear Dina,

First, you must understand that during a past life hypnotic regression, sometimes, the recalled images tend to be in a hypnotic state, when you see is not a product of your imagination, but of your subconscious mind. Imagination takes place when you create images, ideas or events while in your conscious state.

I recall a male student of MDI I had many years ago, who already had a vivid idea of who he was in a past life, but during regression, he saw an entirely different image of himself. The first was a product of his imagination, the second was a product of his subconscious mind.

Second, it seems clear that this married man you met in this lifetime is somebody you've met in several previous lives. Let me address many questions by answering this.

Third, in the soul regression you met in secret, probably because your relationship was not sanctioned either by your family, religion or society.

In the second regression you met the same man again in another lifetime and you could not be together either, because of different social class or worry. He was a guard of some sort and you must have lived in the palace as handmaiden to a queen in Egypt.

In this present life you have met again, but you cannot be together because he is now married and he longs to a different religion. In a previous life he was a soldier or a guard. In the present life he belongs to the warrior or soldier caste.

You see, all throughout your series of lifetimes, you could not be together for one reason or another. There was always something that prevented you from being together. The reason for this is simple. He still has some karmic obligations with others which he has to fulfill and perhaps you, too, have your own karmic obligations to this lifetime.

Finally, will your desires ever be fulfilled? Why not, if you are patient enough to wait several lifetimes more? You are, both great love and great hatred bind you to another in the same life. He said this during the regression. So if you love somebody very much, you are bound to meet that person again in the next life. The same happens with great hatred for another. You will definitely meet those persons again.

So if you don't want to meet your enemy again in the next life, you must learn to forgive and release that person.

Ehh, how should you handle your situation? I can only quote Shakespeare, who said in "Hamlet," "To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

Inner Awareness is by Dr. Jaime C. Licauco. For comments, e-mail innerawareness@yahoo.com; visit www.jaimelicauco.com

During a past life hypnotic regression, what you see is not a product of your imagination, but of your subconscious mind

MediCard
Founded by Doctors

Take Charge, Doc!

WHY BREASTFEEDING IS IMPORTANT FOR BABIES

SM CITY San Fernando, the 44th SM Supermall, is the third in Pampanga, after SM City Pampanga and SM City Clark.

ASAMPANGA Gov. Lilia "Baby" Pineda (center) and San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez share ribbon-cutting honors, together with Archbishop Paciano Aniceto and board members Ric Yalzel and Raul Macalino. With them are SM Prime Holdings president Hans T. Sy, Felicidad T. Sy and SM Supermarket vice chair Herbert T. Sy.

Crowds pack SM City San Fernando opening

KAMBANSUGANS again gave SM a warm welcome when SM City San Fernando opened its doors to the public on July 20. Not even the rainy weather could stop shoppers from quickly filling up the mall as soon as SM Prime Holdings president Hans T. Sy opened the doors to welcome the first wave of customers.

SM City San Fernando is SM Prime's 44th mall, and the third in Pampanga after the openings of SM City Pampanga in 2000, and SM City Clark in 2006.

Known as the Christian Capital of the Philippines, San Fernando's strategic location within the Manila-Clark-Subic Economic Triangle makes it a growing super-industrial-commercial metropolis. It is also the regional center of United Leasing, and home to regional offices of government line agencies.

No less than Pampanga Gov. Lilia Pineda and San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez were the guests of honor during the blessing the day before, together with Archbishop Paciano Aniceto and board members Irma Dizon, Ric Yalzel, Mentoza Lazo, Fermin Dizon and Raul Macalino. Old officials led by Pres. ordeal T. Sy SM Prime Holdings president Hans T. Sy and Supermarket president Herbert T. Sy welcomed them.

Located on a 7.8-ha lot on Sto. Tomas Street in Barangay Santo Rosario, the seven-storey mall will bring SM's shopping, leisure and entertainment environment closer to San Fernando's heritage district.

The main mall entrance leads to a 6-storey of shops, with color and a sculpted ceiling creating an alluring experience. The mall's main retail anchors, the SM Department Store and SM Supermarket, are conveniently located on the ground floor for easy access. SM landmarks like the SM Appliance Center, ACE Hardware and Watsons, as well as fashion boutiques, an IT Zone, beauty and wellness shops, and service outlets will enhance the shopping experience. There are also an extensive mall areas are the backbone of the indoor retail entertainment area.

A three-level parking garage located above the four-storey shopping center provides generous parking.

SM PRIME Holdings president Hans T. Sy, Cultural Center of the Philippines' Enrique Cabagbag, SM Supermarket Store's president Jorge T. Mendiola, Pampanga Mayor Oscar Rodriguez

MIHQAI Leasing Daisy Chan, Food Circle Group of Companies president and CEO Nicki Chen and son (right), and SM Regional Leasing manager Jerry Tan

LEGENDARY basketball player Alvin Go

THE MALL is adorned with big colorful spindles in blue, orange, yellow and green, hanging from the ceiling.

BOARD members Irma Dizon, Mentoza Lazo, Fermin "Fritzie" David Dizon

INTERNATIONALLY renowned director Brillante Mendoza at SM Cinema in SM City San Fernando

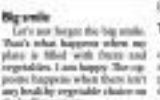
Always pick the healthier choices

THERE'S NO reason to be judgmental about your health choices, because everyone is entitled to choose whatever is best for them. However, in the light of medical evidence, would you reconsider the path you have chosen?

People usually question why I am the way I am. Simple. The answer is, because my wellness lifestyle works for me. And because I see results, there is no reason in the world why it cannot also work for you—unless, of course, you have a health challenge.

Frequently, I sit down and enjoy meals with people, and nearly every if the food on their plate is on my taboo list, I will not "police" them—although my presence alone is enough to get some on the defensive. Your choice is yours alone.

But if I decide to have a complimenty vegetarian meal, don't ask me, why? Because my answer will be, why not?



Big smile

Let's not forget the big smile. That's what happens when my plate is filled with fruits and vegetables. I am happy. The opposite happens when there isn't any food, by vegetable choice on the buffet or menu.

For example, there is spinach lasagna on the menu but it's overloaded with cheese, butter and extra cream. The calories alone are enough to make you gain 2 lbs! The result? I end up not wanting to eat any of the delicious, but choose to leave alone.

But if I decide to have a complimenty vegetarian meal, don't ask me, why? Because my answer will be, why not?

Rule #2: If the smile is still there despite the high-fat news (and you decide to consume the food), then you only have to blame yourself for the consequences—weight gain, high blood pressure, etc.

Think again

This will sound radical to most of you, but the basic information available to us now could improve your health, should you decide to take this seriously.

Have you ever wondered why Atkins and Jenny are forbidden from eating pork? Both religions consider it unclean. Dr. Joel Mc-Combs, author of the book "Life Saver," found that by eliminating pork, there is a consequent and noticeable increase in energy and health levels as well as the body's disease-fighting capabilities.

According to health experts, the danger of eating pork is as various one—a parasitic called parasite—trichinosis. While no cases still have no idea how this parasite worked in humans, what is known is that it can withstand heating and cooking at certain temperatures. Recent University reported that ceremonies and dramatically affect the body's ability to fight off diseases.

It has been observed that when a person goes off pork for one month, their physical dispositions (like headaches, backpain, flu and colds) diminish. The best way to determine if a ten pork diet will benefit you is to see for yourself. Certainly, there could be no harm in trying.

Spoonful of oil

It may be disgusting to many, but not to health enthusiasts.

Doctors even prescribe this regimen. It's about taking oil. But not just any oil. There was a woman in her 30s who had serious high-cholesterol, then don't touch it.

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Why not try giving up pork—and taking some oils that are good for you?

usually high levels of LDL (bad cholesterol). Her doctor prescribed two tablespoons of extra-virgin olive oil nightly for 30 days, daily 45-minute exercise, more consumption of vegetables, fish and chicken only. And sure enough, in 30 days her cholesterol level was healed.

Olive oil is high in omega 3 and 6, and has been used for ages as an antidote. High in antioxidants, it has the ability to raise HDL or good cholesterol. It's rich in vitamin E and phenols (found in grapes). This good oil can improve your heart health.

Since he's go to my favorite virgin coconut oil or VCO. It is a safe oil, contrary to some alarmists, and it bears repeating. While it is considered a saturated fat, it belongs to the medium-chain fatty acid. What does this mean? It means that the liver stores it as energy and not as fat.

VCO is best when processed without the use of heat. And that is why you should go for the virgin kind.

To lose weight, take one teaspoon of organic VCO before each meal. This facilitates the quicker passage of food in the digestive tract, while stopping the conversion of food to fat. VCO also stimulates the thyroid and increases metabolism. And the best part of all is this: it helps the body burn stored fat even while you're sleeping. Try the organic VCO from The Nuns in San Dionisio. It's one of the best in the market today.

Allium today: "I achieved edge the goodness in me."

Love and light!

Reference: National Geographic, Alvin Watkins

Boracay resort offers discounts at Philippine Travel Mart

VISITBORACAY Garden Resort's booth on Aug. 10-12 at the 23rd Philippine Travel Mart (PTM) Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City, to avail as much as 50-percent off on room rates.

Enjoy a discounted package rate of P5,804 net per person for a three-day stay in Boracay Garden Resort's upscale premium room. Based on twin sharing, this is inclusive of daily breakfast and dinner and round-trip transfers via Caticlan Travel permit is valid March 31, 2013.

Boracay Garden Resort has 201 spacious rooms and lovely, tree-lined surroundings, offering a calm ambience to guests. The resort has its own private pathway that leads to the beachfront with lounge beds and sun umbrellas.

The main swimming pool has been redesigned with natural stones imported from Bali, Indonesia. The 454-m pool also features a pool bar and deck, and is lined with Asian-inspired cabanas and cool loungers.

The resort grounds are ideal for themed dinners and barbecue parties. For the past two years, Boracay Garden Resort has been the venue for various events and corporate gatherings.

Boracay Garden Resort has its own restaurant called Garden Cafe, where guests enjoy al fresco dining. A new chef has been commissioned to improve the menu to include more Filipino and international cuisines.

The mini-shop and boutiques within resort recently opened adjacent to the reinforced resort lobby. The newly renovated lobby air-conditioned guest and fitness center-business center-gift shop, including free weights, strength machines and cardiovascular equipment. It is one of the biggest fitness centers in the island.

Call Boracay Garden Resort's Manila Booking Office at tel. 3507777 or e-mail manila@boracaygardens.com.ph.

Biology week at UP Manila

The Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences of UP Manila will hold its Biology Week on Aug. 13-17 with the theme "Genetics and the Universal Species."

The week-long event will feature 200 Alumni Forum, BIOGenius, 500 Seminar, NSD Quiz Inter-high school biology quiz contest for NCR public and private schools, and the Bilyaguan Variety Show on Aug. 17. Interested sponsors and booth exhibitors may call tel. 3811-8180/82, 5260881, or e-mail thenguyen@upmanila.edu.ph.

PSID mounts 'Gabay: Dibuhong Umakay'

The Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID) proudly marks its 40th year with "Gabay: Dibuhong Umakay," the graduation exhibit of the PSID Advanced Class of 2012, on Sept. 29-Oct. 31, at the former Super Sale Club, SM City North Edsa, Quezon City.

In cooperation with SM City North Edsa Interior Zone and the National Council for Disabilities Affairs, "Gabay" showcases 25 different spaces designed in creatively planned solutions.

PSID has been known to produce groundbreaking exhibits that become the benchmark of interior design exhibits in the academe. This year's exhibit delves into a topic rarely discussed in interior design: flexible yet stylish spaces for the blind, the deaf, the mute, the crippled, and the elderly.

The 24 spaces will be divided into five main areas. Taiwan be the usually requested), dining (for the hearing-impaired), Cubao (for the elderly), and

Trading for the handicapped). The goal is to create environments for "the disabled that will help in their healing process, as well as assist the physically impaired and geriatric in their homes and places to their safety while providing comfort and ease.

Sponsored by Kaysee, Iron Acuña, APO Flooring and Mky Mike. "Gabay" aims to raise the exhibit audience's awareness on the daily challenges of people with disabilities and encourage them to think of solutions for a more barrier-free society.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edited by Evenne G. Velarde

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Kristen Stewart, 'trampire'

LOS ANGELES—Comedian Will Ferrell broke down in (unusable!) tears over the breakup of Kristen Stewart and boyfriend Robert Pattinson, on Conan O'Brien's show Thursday. When O'Brien insisted that things will be fine, Ferrell moaned, "It's not going to be fine, ever! She's a trampire, that's what she is!"

—AP

WILL Ferrell ...

The best gift for Buboy

DOLLY WOOD
Daily Anne Curtsylet

CESAR Montano celebrated his birthday at his ranch in Bellosillo in his new location in Sesse Rodeo, Quezon City. Buboy was in high spirits as he sang to his heart's delight.

Whirl did Barobino and their kids give him as a gift? "Our daughters kept their promise—all have good grades, which is the best gift for me," Buboy beamed. "And Shine cooked my fave dish, Jambalaya."

I had never seen him more fit.

"I am preparing for my role as Andres Bonifacio. I have to look the part," he said. "I was everyday to become leaner."

Asked which beta role is harder to play—Andres or Jose Rizal (who he has portrayed on film), he replied, "Rizal was very gentle in his approach; Bonifacio was aggressive. Portraying Bonifacio is more stressful."

The birthday boy is a real hands-on dad. I can vouch for that and so can people he has met along the way.

Kuya Germs' concern

I got nostalgic when I interviewed Kuya Germs (Germaine Salonga) days before my Mom's birthday since they were very close.

He clarified the confusion (still) between him and Nora Aunor. "We are both run old for that," he said. "Mine is just concern for her. She's generous to a fault. I reminded her that she should learn to save."

In Nora's TV interview on TV5's "Ang Linsay," she said she was old enough to know what she was doing and need not be lectured about her finances.

The love in Kuya Germs' heart to help new talents has not died. "These days, millions are spent for a one-

CESAR Montano

month," he said. "In the time of 'Pinoy Dream Academy,' the cost was minimal. It was like a workshop on-air for young stars."

French kiss explained

Lucy Torres-Gomez has no reason to worry about her senior Mrs. Juliana since boys are not yet in her vocabulary.

"She's so into fencing, she took after her dad," Lucy said. "When she found out what a French kiss was, I said it was somewhat like the clashing of swords in fencing. She blurted out, 'Yuwe!' I also told her that when she gets her first kiss, no matter how magical it feels, she should not think that he's already the one for her."

Tears for Fears

"Tears for Fears Live in Manila 2012" on Aug. 30 and 31 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum also features Pen Hermosa of Pen Liger-Lippi. A Child Goes is set on Aug. 11 at the Waterfront Cebu Hotel.

Billy Corgan, 24 years later

Smashing Pumpkins' headstrong leader carries on with new band mates

SMASHING Pumpkins frontman and cofounder Billy Corgan has survived the troubles that plagued his band, including its breakup in 2000 and the exit of original members James Iha, Darcy Wretzky and Jimmy Chamberlin, as well as Melissa Auf der Maur.

He reformed Smashing Pumpkins in 2007 with Chamberlin and new members—only to break it up again.

In 2010 Smashing Pumpkins had another set of new members—guitarist Jeff Schroeder, drummer Mike Byrne and bassist Nicole Fiorentino—whom Corgan took on a world tour. They also started to record new songs.

This is the lineup that worked on the band's new album, "Oceania," which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 upon its release in June this year.

Smashing Pumpkins will perform tonight, 8 p.m., at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

In the middle of a tour, Corgan found time for an e-mail chat with the Inquirer.

You talk a lot about the importance of reinvention.

Art that does not innovate is by definition not art, but rather a self-reflective form of pornography where only the inner details matter. Bands should look for transformation or they are merely pleasure seekers playing in a dissection sandbox. Big band members, simply by being themselves, create the opportunity for something new to happen.

In other interviews, you mention the dichotomy of underground and alternative music and how the scene has changed.

The band is now an entity unto itself, entering without the wealth of the music business sucking it dry. The industry has only hampered the band's abilities by making it to play a game I don't believe in personally.

You've learned to speak your mind, especially when it comes to other bands.

There are many many talented artists, that is without question. It's a shame to see so many of them waste their gifts on vapid nonsense that will only enslave them to issues of the same.

"Inorganization by Kaleidoscope" was inspired by the Beats, and you named a compilation album "Pinwheel Infinity," which of course refers to astrology and the Bible. What is it about the esoteric and the spiritual that intrigues or inspires you?

God is a mystery. Simple as that. Appease reality in many forms. The inspiration comes in trying to decode the arcane language of life.

What else do you want to achieve, given your long career?

—MARVIN

Stop losing your hair. Regain your confidence!

For most women losing hair is like losing vibrancy, self-confidence and self-esteem. And this could lead to depression, anxiety and feelings of inferiority. Stop losing your hair. If there are women like Interior Designer Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Designer Eva Abesamis and Former Beauty Queen Suzette Arriesgado who fought and triumphed against hairloss — you can, too. Discover their secret.

Excessive stress, genes or too much extreme styling methods could cause women's hairloss. To stop falling and thinning, one needs the right treatments. In the Philippines, there's only one hairloss center where advanced treatments and highly trained technologists are found: Svenson.

Tessa fought thinning hair as soon as she experienced its early signs. "Thinning hair makes a woman look older. I don't want that to happen to me. When I noticed lots of hair on my

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Eva Abesamis

pillow and my hair started to thin out, I immediately bought "thickening" shampoos. But I was disappointed. They didn't stop my problem. Good thing I discovered Svenson. After a course of treatments, my hair regained its original volume. It's even softer, more lustrous. I could style it any way I want it."

Eva, on the other hand, wanted hair results for her hair. "I didn't want to use other products. I just wanted the best. When a friend recommended Svenson, I decided to give it a try. I had no more falling hair. It's back to its lush, shiny, stunning look. I know I made the right decision. Thanks to Svenson!"

Former Beauty Queen Suzette Arriesgado says every day is her "bad hair day" after her triumph over hairloss and recovered her lush, lustrous locks. "I started experiencing fat big hair to my scalp 30s. I was afraid that my hair problem might turn into severe hairloss. I thought I went the cosmetic products would solve my problem, but only Svenson did! Now, I'm free from hairloss and every day is my 'best hair day!'"

Suzette Arriesgado

Stop falling and thinning hair. Call Svenson at **892-HAIR (4247)** or **234-6951 (Cebu)** today for a FREE consultation. You can be assured that all consultations are carried out in private.

Star Records artists occupy top 3 slots

TOP-SELLING albums in the country for the week July 23-29, based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales report:

Overall

1) Various Artists, "Walang Hanggan, Vol. 2," Star Records; 2) Various Artists, "Walang Hanggan (Repackaged)," Star; 3) Daniel Padilla, "Daniel Padilla," Star; 4) Gloc 9, "MKDM: Mga Kwentso Ng Maktan," Universal; 5) Maroon 5, "Overexposed," MCA; 6) One Direction, "Up All Night," Sony; 7) Noel Cabangon, "Tatay Ang Bida," Universal; 8) Various Artists, "Love Songs From Princess & I," Star; 9) Justin Bieber, "Believe," MCA; 10) Justin Bieber, "Pattern Mix Maroon 5 I Highlights," MCA

OPM

1) Various Artists, "Walang Hanggan, Vol. 2," Star; 2) Various Artists, "Walang Hanggan (Repackaged)," Star; 3) Daniel Padilla, "Daniel Padilla," Star; 4) Gloc 9, "MKDM: Mga Kwentso Ng Maktan," Universal; 5) Noel Cabangon, "Tatay Ang Bida," Universal; 6) Various Artists, "Love Songs From Princess & I," Star; 7) Juris Fabregas, "OPM's Greatest, Vol. 1," Star; 8) Various Artists, "My Popular Demand 3," Universal; 9) Angeline Quinto, "Still In Love Again," Star; 10) Noel Cabangon, "Byahe," Universal

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SM MASINAG
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SM OLONGAPO
SM PAMPANGA
SM ROSALES
SM ROSARIO
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Billy Corgan ...

From page 06

I don't exercise goals because it only sabi ng to be compared to others who don't belong in the conversation. So let's just say my goals don't matter.

...

The founding member will be "live musicing" by show at the Big Dome for two hours before the stars, each band member will be mooning choir pitchers and serpentwor in Manila. Their moves will be animated by astounding pamphlets and supported by ghostbreakers. Fans are encouraged to tweet their photos of the show using the #SP09 hashtag. The best photos will be streamed by the band.

(The show is presented by Globe and tickets still or last 08 (17 and 1,000 for promo.)

Learning is a lifelong pursuit

Actor and learning advocate Dingdong Dantes, who just turned 32, writes about his 'chosen people,' the youth

By Dingdong Dantes
Contributor

(End of last part)

I AM CURRENTLY studying BS Technology Management in Ateneo Negros University. In school, the only school that offers this undergraduate program that combines information technology and business management. I haven't a difficult set of first bet, after a few months, I can say that I have adjusted, handling the pressures of both school and work quite well. I look forward to taking up my masters.

ALDEN Richards, Mikael Daez, myself and Benjamin Alves during the GMA Trenton @ Home.

Starting at home

My family played a big role in nurturing my passion for learning and then passing it on. I learned discipline from my father, Jimmy J. Dantes, Jr., now 64, a commander at the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Even if he had been raised in the military style by my grandfather, a retired general of the Philippine Constabulary, my father's own parenting style was something more modern—has talk but still full of authority. To this day, I can count on him to give me the answers to practically any question, except about numbers of the heart—I guess only because I do not ask.

My mother, Ms. Angelita G. Dantes, now 56, taught me compassion. She has mastered the skill of showering her children with equal love and affection, and helping us deal with our emotions. She has a way of appealing to her children's conscience that often results in better decisions on our part.

Although I am the eldest of five children—next to me is Ms. Angela Dantes-Astrillo, followed by Ms. Cristine Dantes-Quesia, then Jose Angelo Dantes and our youngest, Ms. Victoria Eunice—I seek my siblings' advice and, more importantly their inspiration when trying out new things. For instance, since technology evolves faster than my tolerance can cope with it, I am grateful to have Angela and Vicki around to give me luminous tutorials. And Angela has convinced me to play basketball again after eight years.

This dedication to learning and excellence that I have cultivated with the help of my family and other people in my immediate circle, led me and some of my friends to put up the Wellness Foundation in August 2009. Its goal is to empower the youth through education, and service.

We reach out to disadvantaged youths not only through scholarship grants, but also through alternative learning channels. One of our major projects is the Pedalakad, a mobile school that hopes to awaken sustainability values through arts and technology.

We fund our programs with the help of friends, industry sponsors, film-related groups and individuals, and television guesting stints.

I know that we can do only so much, so I can encourage others to join and help us go the extra mile. I wish to inspire young people to never give up on their dreams and to always value education, which will give them control of their future.

Passion lives on

During our recent shoot for GMA's new Station ID, I and fellow Kapuso actors Mikael Daez, Benjamin Alves and Alden Richards got to converse with one another, some of whom asked how I prioritized my activities.

I told them, "Enjoy your every day pursuit; keep growing and developing. Whether there's a will, there's a way; where there's resistance, there are only excuses." There are the very words I live by. I find time for my studies, my work and my advocacy even if it means going to the firing range or hanging out with friends from often. At the end of the day, it's all about staying faithful to your goals.

It's not enough to have a dream; you have to chase it, and chase it real good.

Learning new things doesn't mean chasing new dreams. It is just because you're probably finding a better route to get to where you want to be.

It's not always how much you have achieved, but how much of it has been applied to your life.

As for me, I have not stopped dreaming. I may have realized many of them, but there's still a lot I can do. Maybe someday I can become a pilot or cook and sing. Who knows?

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SNOW Patrol

Snow Patrol at the Big Dome

SNOOPER, Smart and PLDT are the supersponsors of rock band Snow Patrol's concert on Aug. 9 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Formed in 1994 at the University of Dundee in Scotland, Snow Patrol recorded for indie labels. Its debut album, "Songs for Polarbears," gained the group critical acclaim, as well as its follow-up album, "When It's All Over We Still Have to Clear Up."

The band signed with Polydor Records in 2002 and achieved commercial success with the single "Run" from its third album, "Final Straw" (2003).

Its fourth album, "Eyes Open," yielded "Chasing Cars," which was nominated for best single in the 2006 Grammy Awards and how rock song also at the Grammys the following year.

The band's latest record, "Fallen Empires," is also the theme of its concert tour that includes the Manila date.

Call 911.3333 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph.

Something Special is back

The reunited group Something Special—now composed of vocalists Janice Hizon, Jo Inso Stella and Dingdong Avanzado, guitarist Vonnie Bell Jimenez, bassist Bally Muñoz, drummer Ariel Valdez and keyboardist Dindong Subido, Jr.—performs on Aug. 10, 17, 24 and 31 at Diaris Music, Annapolis St., Greenhills.

The group dishes out covers of 1960s, '70s, '80s hits, as well as originals "Rain Ako, Tayo, Magkakapatid," "Inside" and "I Don't Love You Anymore," which were recorded by its first generation members. Call 8917-8111337.

Bobby Kim

Korean R&B singer Bobby Kim performs on Aug. 10 at the Newport Performing Arts Theater in Resorts World Manila.

Growing up in the underground R&B scene in San Francisco, USA, Kim and his band Dr. Reggae became a hit among teenagers in South Korea. Call 836-01111 or log on to www.rwmanila.com.

Joe Bonamassa

The Smalltown Supa Jam presents Americana blues rock singer-songwriter Joe Bonamassa on Sept. 25 at One Esplanade, Mall of Asia complex, Pasay. Call 470-2888.